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A CENTURY OF

Vernon, Connecticut

1808—1908

SUMMARY OF VERNON'S HISTORY, EARLY AND MODERN. LITERARY EXERCISES AT HISTORIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT VERNON CENTER.

INCEPTION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MOVEMENT. REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND PROGRAM FOR THE WEEK'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

June 28 to July 4, Inclusive, 1908

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EDITED AND COMPILED BY
HARRY CONKLIN SMITH.

With Sincere good Wishes.
Harry Coulslin Smith.

PART I.

SUMMARY OF VERNON'S HISTORY, EARLY AND MODERN.

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SUMMARY

—of the—

Early History of Vernon

—by—

C. DENISON TALCOTT.

The Pilgrim Fathers who founded the colony of Plymouth, and their successors who established the colony upon Massachusetts Bay, were the bearers of a new and more excellent order of life. They constituted the vanguard of a new civilization based upon freedom of spirit which aspired to religious liberty, and upon freedom of mind and of body which is the civil liberty of our modern state. From the leaders of these two colonies, with vigor of manhood and nobility of ideal, there migrated in the year 1635, the pioneer settlers of our three original towns—Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. In 1726 from one of these original towns, Windsor, there journeyed into the territory of North Bolton, Samuel Grant, the first permanent settler. In 1808, by reason of the large increase of these pioneers, this northern part of the Mother Town, Bolton, was set off and incorporated as a separate town. Thus it was that Vernon was not only descended from the foremost pioneers of the nation, but inherited the motives and impulses of a new era.

The original towns were founded upon a distinct principle of government. Shortly after the migration, a legislative council was convened, under the name of the "Corte," afterward called the General Court, our General Assembly. The powers of this "Corte" were delegated by the towns. The central authority was regarded as dependent finally for its claim to power upon the townships themselves. They were the creators of the state, were therefore the source of authority and finally supreme. Such has been the governing principle of all the successive towns of the commonwealth. Imbued, in her turn, with this principle of her natural autocracy, Vernon entered upon existence.

Vernon, as a beneficiary of Nature, has been kindly treated. The town is divided, north and south, by a range of hills, which mark the limit of the broad valley of the Connecticut River. As a result, the western portion of the town is a gently undulating territory, of fair soil, and well watered by the principal streams, the Hockanum and the Tankaroosan. The eastern portion, of a variegated rock formation, precipitous and severe, possesses at its northern extremity, the outlet of a marvelous watershed. Formerly this outlet was not under the control of a high and massive dam of stone, but was bound by a low combination of logs and gravel from which there passed a rivulet, so small, that a well-known townsman, Peter Dobson, expressed considerable surprise that Colonel McLean should think of constructing a mill upon the Hockanum instead of the Tankaroosan. Mr. Dobson, on other occasions, was an unusually able and close student of nature. While excavating for the foundation of his cotton factory, he was greatly impressed with the abraded condition of many of the bowlders. This unique condition, Mr. Dobson attributed to their being suspended and carried in ice over rocks and earth under water. Eminent scientists in Europe and America confirmed this original theory of the glacial formation, and Mr. Dobson was honored with well-merited prestige. Nature was kind to Vernon, therefore, in the diversity of her gifts, as well as in providing successful interpreters of her laws.

As the new town had an inland location and manufacturers were still in the experimental stage, the inhabitants by nature and by necessity gave themselves universally to the pursuit of agriculture. The conditions of farming within the territory of a single township led to a limited and somewhat isolated population. At this early time, the town government, while essentially the same as that of today, possessed and exercised a much wider range of authority, an influence indeed which to the eye of the settler was complete and supreme. The average citizen of 1808 looked upon his town as upon a small republic, and knew little and cared less for the larger commonwealth to which he owed his allegiance. The reason for this was because the interest of every individual was bounded by the rule of the town

Know all men by these presents that We Timothy Olcott
Francis Smith & John Bissel all of Bolton in the County of
Hartford & Colony of Connecticut agents & in the proprietors
Common & undivided Land in Bolton for and in Consideration
that Samuel Grant of Windsor is holinged & Bound
to us the said Timothy Olcott Francis Smith & John Bissel &c
as agents for the proprietors aforesaid all their Right & Title &
which the said Grant Wood hath to a Certain Farme in
Bolton formerly Granted to one Thomas Ball & further Bounded
him by said Farme Deed in Consideration aforesaid We the said
Timothy Olcott Francis Smith & John Bissel for our selves &
and in behalf of the proprietors aforesaid do give Grant Bargain
Confirm & Confirme unto the said Samuel Grant & to his
heirs & assigns for Ever one parcel or tract of Land
Lying & being in ye town ship of Bolton at the North End
of ye Town ship in Quantity one hundred acres bounded North
on Windsor Commonly called Windor Equivalent Lands
the whole breadth of the town of Bolton Except one piece
in the north east Corner of said Bolton under the improvement
of one Whipple of about thirty acres and said tract of Land
is to run due South from the North End of ye Bolton
the whole breadth of said town Excepting the Corner afore
said as will make five hundred acres of Land and is bounded
North on Windsor Equivalent Land East on Colony Excep the
Corner on Whipples South on the proprietors of Bolton
Land Bolton Windsor to Have and to Hold said Five hundred
acres of Land as above Decribed with all the profitedges &
appurtenances thereto belonging to Him the said Samuel Grant
his heirs & assigns to their Ever and we the said Timothy
Olcott Francis Smith & John Bissel for our selves & in
behalf of the proprietors aforesaid do by these presents
Covenant promise & grant to & with the said Samuel
Grant his heirs & assigns that We will Defend the above
Granted bargained premises to said Grant & his heirs against the
Lawful Claims & Demands of all & Every person or persons what-
soever In Confirmation whereof We do hereunto set to our
hands & seal this 29 day of April Anno 1726
Signed Sealed & Delivered
in presence of
Chas Pitkin
Joseph Olmsted

Hartford ss April 30th 1726
Then John Bissel Timothy Olcott and
Francis Smith the Subscribers did
acknowledge this
Instrument to be their voluntary act and deed
Chas Pitkin Just Peace

of his residence. To secure legal residence he must either be a native, be admitted by vote of the town meeting, by the approval of the selectmen, or by election to some town office. Having acquired a legal residence, to become a voter there was a property qualification, the usual testimonial as to character, and the freeman's oath. These powers over residence and the right to vote were greatly modified in the formation and adoption of the new state constitution in 1818. The property qualification disappeared by an amendment of 1845, one more step in the evolution of the suffrage to a more simple and universal form.

The problems of our fathers, in 1808, were primarily problems of construction rather than of maintenance as at present. Similarity of occupation brought about an identity in private interest, which naturally found expression in public affairs. At the earliest town meeting, presided over by the first town clerk and treasurer, Oliver King, it was voted to divide the districts and assess the labor on highways. For a long period of years the laying out of new highways was the principal subject for action at town meeting. Many acts of these early meetings have reference, also, to the protection of property in ways quite unusual today. The definition of property was a matter which claimed much careful attention, as is evidenced by the office of fence-viewer. Again, men were so few, and animals so common, that the haywards and pound-keeper were as ordained as the regular constable. Horses, mules, sheep, cattle, geese were restrained by special acts from running at large. A notable exception occurred in the case of swine which were allowed to run at large with a ring in the nose. With these various additional town offices and a comparatively small list of citizens, opportunities for public service were open at one time or another to nearly every one.

Considering that the population was eager to exercise itself in this regard, it is not to be wondered at that a great amount of sound political training was accomplished. The tax, in those early days, was seldom paid in money, the greater part was worked out. Town meetings were held at Vernon Center up to 1856, when they were held alternately at Rockville, and in 1865 altogether in the latter place.

The ideal of religion was as widespread and profound in its spiritual effect as the ideal of government was stimulating in its intellectual effect. The established church being Congregational, possessed the same democratic principle as the civil authority. In fact the relation of the church to the civil power was peculiarly unique. Taxes were by law collected for the support of the church as regularly as for town expenses. The church society used the civil tax list, and if there was difficulty in collecting, the town authority enforced the collection. Restrictions over voting in the society meetings were as rigid, indeed were the same as in the civil town meeting. The activity of the tithing-man was clearly in behalf of the church society, yet he was a regularly appointed town officer. He constituted a sort of moral police, who on the occasion of divine service, quelled the restlessness of the youth and disturbed the slumbers of the aged. While the church society had direct control in all matters pertaining to local religion, the General Assembly held jurisdiction over the church body as a whole. This close relationship between church and state was ended in 1818 by the provisions of the new constitution.

In 1749, upon petition of eighteen residents of North Bolton, the General Assembly granted the privileges of a winter parish. These privileges were allowed on account of the unusual distance from the ordained church in Bolton. They consisted of special services in the schoolhouses or individual houses as convenience allowed. In 1760, upon further petition, a separate parish was established under the name of the Ecclesiastical Society of North Bolton. The first pastor of this Society was Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg and his salary during the fifty-five years of his pastorate, did not exceed £70. (Colonial currency $233.33). A church building was erected in 1762 and was located a half mile east of the present edifice at Vernon Center. The spot being elevated according to custom, became familiarly known as "Old Meeting House Hill." It was not until 1770 that square straight-backed pews were installed, nor until 1774 that the building was finally plastered. The age of our ancestors was pervaded by the ideal of the spirit. They labored for the meat that perisheth,

FIRST CHURCH ERECTED IN TOWN OF VERNON May 6, 1762. (From Pen and Ink Drawing by Special Artist from description furnished by Allyn Stanley Kellogg in historical address on "The Church of Christ," Vernon, Ct.)

but only in the sense that by a renewed vigor and a more ample fortune they might erect some new symbol of their faith in the spirit of man. In 1837, members of the parish living in the village of Rockville, organized a second church. The church had, as its first preacher, Rev. Diodate Brockway, and the church building, constructed at a heavy expense ($4,500) was located on the site of our present Memorial Town Hall. This church remained the Second Church in Vernon up to 1848, when the growth of the village became so pronounced that the parish was divided and a new church organized. The new edifice was erected on the site of the present Union Church and the first pastor was Rev. Andrew Sharpe. The two churches became known respectively as the First and Second Churches in Rockville.

Of the other denominations the first to make its appearance was that of the Methodists. Services were held by itinerant preachers as early as 1833. It was not until 1840, however, that Vernon was placed upon the regular list of appointments. The first appointees were Revs. Benj. M. Walker and Caleb D. Rogers. Meetings were conducted in the old schoolhouse on West Street until 1847, when a church building was erected. The location was in the same vicinity, on West Street, not far from Windsor Avenue.

For professions other than clergymen, there was in the Puritan regime comparatively little room. The lawyer was, according to the Scriptures, decried and regarded as a maker rather than a settler of disputes. Vernon was fortunate in that her first lawyer not only easily dispelled the prejudice of the age, but achieved a distinction far beyond the confines of his adopted town. Hon. Dwight Loomis was born a judge, and to that rare temperament was added a profound devotion to the public welfare, and to the principles of a far-seeing and high-minded justice.

A new country, consecrated to the idealism of a theocracy, had little thought for the advancement of science. Although physicians, as a profession, were prominent much earlier than lawyers, the efficacy of their cures lay fully as much in the common sense of a strong personality as in the consequences of

a huge cathartic. The list of rates for general practice, adopted in 1828, by the Tolland County Medical Society, is a significant commentary on the times—regular visits twenty-five cents, night visits fifty cents, consultations one dollar. One of the earliest physicians in North Bolton, and the first in Vernon was Dr. Scottoway Hinckley. Dr. Hinckley joined the Medical Society in 1803, and read a dissertation before that body in 1807. He was particularly interested in school matters, and served many years on the visiting and district committees, (1799-1815). We recall Dr. Hinckley also for his experiments, in 1812, along with Delano Abbott, in the first weaving of cloth. Altogether Vernon may feel well satisfied with the public spirit of her first regular physician.

A school society was established in North Bolton, October 31, 1796. The formation of a society was the method prevailing at that time in the promotion and regulation of all school matters. In the early days of the three original towns, the common education was a subject for action at town meeting. In those days there was usually but one parish or ecclesiastical society in each town. As the population increased, a division became necessary, and two or more parishes began to occupy the same general territory. With this division into parishes came the gradual transfer of school supervision from the town authorities to the leaders in each parish. The school society was a self-appointed representative committee of the parish interested in school matters. The first meetings of the society in North Bolton were held in the old meeting house. The parish was immediately divided into districts, and the erection of the small but historic schoolhouses soon followed. In 1798 the first school visiting committee was appointed. The visiting committee appointed in 1808, when North Bolton became Vernon, consisted of Scottoway Hinckley, Oliver H. King, Benjamin Talcott, Jr., and Thomas W. Kellogg. It is clear, therefore, that the school system was in working order at the beginning of our history as a town. As the southern part of the town was the earliest to develop, the Center, Dobson, Phœnix and Valley Falls Districts became the first of importance. The old schoolhouse near Valley Falls, long since out of

PETER DOBSON,

Founder of First Cotton Mill in Vernon and one of the first in America. Co-worker with Samuel Slater, Father of Cotton Manufacturing in this Country. (Courtesy of Rockville Journal).

commission, still stands the relic of a stern and somber past. In the vicinity of Rockville, the West District became the first of importance. The schoolhouse stood near the old Grant Mill. In the East District there was no schoolhouse until 1836. To meet the rapid development of the new village, schools were held in private houses. In the same year, 1836, the society voted that school should be kept four months in the year, the first reference we have to the length of the term of instruction. While an opportunity for instruction was made possible for every child in the township, we can not regard the resultant education other than purely elementary. Up to 1839 there was but one grade. The pursuit of agriculture without modern implements and in the midst of a primitive wildness afforded slight opportunities for self-culture. The foremost problem of the community was the hard practical end of gaining a livelihood. Nature was the task-master and applied mechanics was the general course of study. The field of advanced learning was reserved for the clergymen, and the effect even here was dogmatic and limited. It must be borne in mind, however, that profundity of knowledge was not the first essential of a community based upon free institutions. We glorify our fathers because they recognized that a diffusion of knowledge, a high average intelligence, was the real foundation of a free democracy. In 1848, the first regular school building for both the lower and higher grades was completed at a cost of about $10,000. This marked the beginning of our modern system of education. A state law, in 1856, abolished the school societies and transferred the school jurisdiction from the parish back to the town. It was some time later, however, (1866) before the various school districts were made uniformly responsible to the town authority, as we have it today.

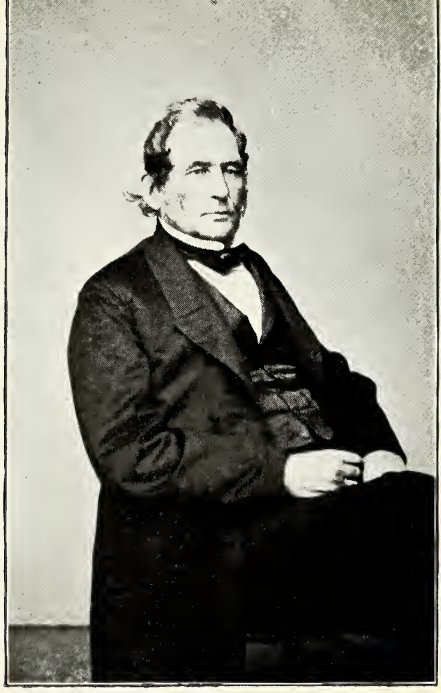
Agriculture, which in 1808 occupied a foremost position in industry, was destined to be superseded, and in a comparatively short time become second in importance to the mechanical arts. In the early days the lord of the farm looked down upon the mechanic as upon a vulgar and inferior being. Not until the constitution of 1818 were both placed upon the same level as

citizens. Manufacturing at once felt the impetus of the new equality in industry. Soon after, in 1821, appeared the first real factory in the town, built by Colonel Francis McLean, and called the Rock. Other manufactories in their order of development were—the Frank (1831); New Rock (1832); afterward the Leeds (1837); Hockanum (1833), formerly Twin Mills (1814); Springville (1833); Saxony (1836); Panola or Stone Mill (1836); and New England (1837). These various enterprises so rapidly succeeded that by 1841, when a post office was established and Rockville entered upon history, the mechanic had passed the agriculturist, and not only in Vernon but throughout Connecticut as a whole. We became a manufacturing town, and we arrived at this condition by reason of the intuitive faculty which has given us the name of "Yankee."

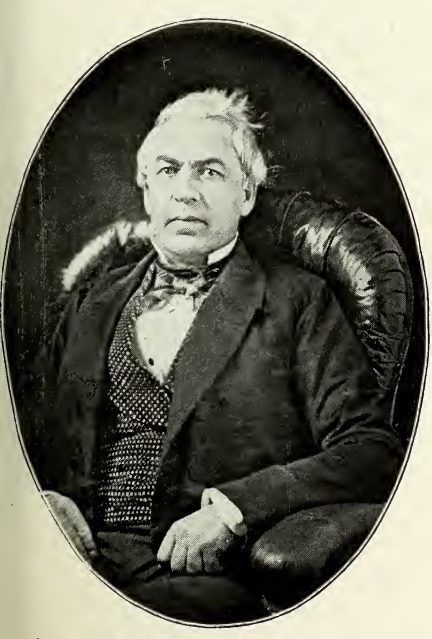
War has made its summons upon Vernon in the most memorable conflict of history. Three hundred enlisted men responded to the great moral call of the Civil War, Company F of the Fifth Connecticut, Company D of the Fourteenth Connecticut, and a detachment in Company B of the Seventh Connecticut, and one German company of the New York military, beside many individuals to various other regiments. Upon the record of the town, as well, is the heavy expenditure of money which was none other than the labor of those who fulfilled their duty at home. At the town meeting of August 19, 1862, the sum of $25,000 was appropriated for the general expenses. By the close of the war, other appropriations brought the total to over $46,000. In addition the estimated amount paid by individuals for bounties to volunteers and substitutes was $15,000. When we remember that the population was less than half of our present numbers, the measure of the sacrifices, both in men and in money, appears in a truer and more powerful light. The days of the Rebellion are gone. Only those who lived them through can know of the anguish of soul upon the field and the terrible uncertainty of mind at home.

Vernon, in 1824, by the advantage of her location on the Boston Turnpike, enjoyed an event of considerable historic interest. Upon this turnpike Colonel King erected a substantial

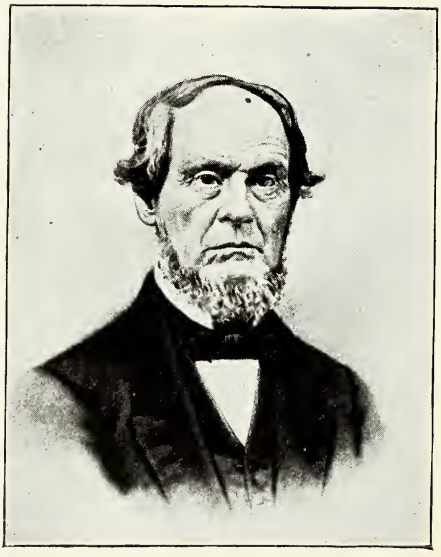
FRANCIS McLEAN,
uilder of the first woolen mill of importance and pioneer of the industry.



PHINEAS TALCOTT,
Delegate to Constitutional Convention in 1818. Agent of the Rock Manufacturing Company. Organizer of The American Mills.



CAPTAIN ALLEN HAMMOND.
The history of Rockville has been inseparably connected with name of Hammond since 1837.



DR. ALDEN SKINNER,
One of the last of the old-time physicians. Father of Town Clerk Skinner—Alden Skinner Camp Sons of Veterans is named in his honor.

hostelry, our present town farm, known in those days as King's Tavern. At the tavern many men of national fame from time to time regaled themselves. Finally, one of international repute, General Lafayette, on his revisit to America, had occasion to make the journey from Boston to Hartford. Vernon, to render the illustrious guest appropriate homage, called out her military for a royal salute. The general, however, was so late in arriving that the soldiers and royal salute betook themselves home. Nevertheless the historic sojourn at the old tavern took place, and many veterans of the Revolution greeted the gallant Frenchman. This event has been honorably commemorated by one of our patriotic societies, the D. A. R.

The achievements of early Vernon must needs be to the many a tradition, to the few, only a memory. The work of our Puritan ancestry was essentially constructive. They were the precursors and guardians of a new manhood, and as such, were builders of mind, of body, and of soul. The final effect was not perfect, nor always pleasing, but citizenship was ennobled in every department and life was made richer for the generation to come.

SUMMARY
of the
MODERN HISTORY OF VERNON
by
HARRY CONKLIN SMITH.

History is a record of what man has done, a narrative of past events. A town history treats of the rise and growth of the town, of the deeds of the town's citizens, the manners and customs of her people, from which it gains its color and inspiration. It also shows the part the town has taken in that mighty forward and onward movement, called progress. Town history is distinguished as early and modern. Usually it is the task of the historian to trace the progress of the town from its rude beginnings to its present strength and wealth. It should be a labor of love, and to be properly done, it must be the work of years. The history of the town of Vernon has been divided into two parts. The first part, or a summary of the early history of the town, has been admirably presented to the reader in the preceding pages.

No generation in the strictest sense can begin its own work. It reaps fields that have been sown by others. To understand what we are today we need to go back to the toils and hardships of our ancestors, the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers. It was their rude schoolhouses that prepared the way for our splendid present-day system of education. It was their struggle for political and religious freedom that gave us the greatest republic on which the sun ever shone, and our New England town and New England town meeting, institutions that typify freedom and democracy. It was their intense conviction of their accountability to God that fruited in the rugged virtues of New England character. While we of the present day, in veneration of that loyalty to God, home and country, which made our ancestors industrious, honest, self reliant and honored, strive to maintain the splendid character of our New England civilization, the

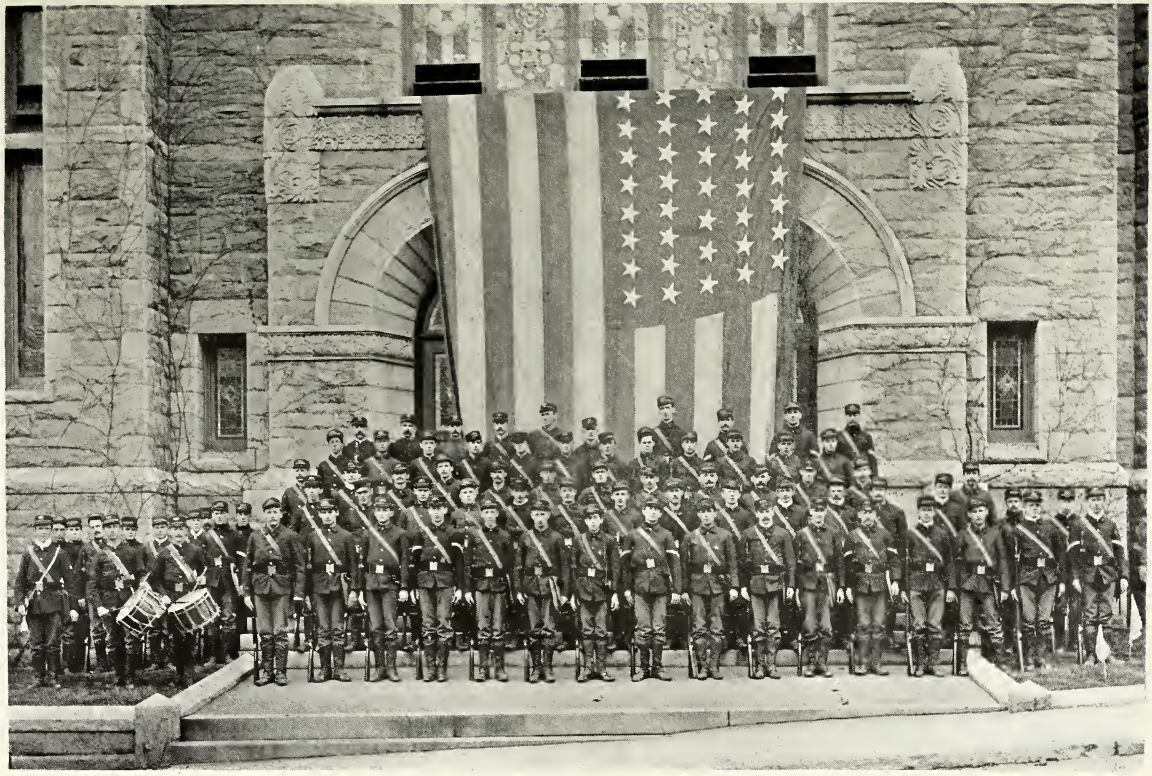
problems that confront us as a town today are vastly different from the problems our fathers had to deal with when the town was incorporated, and for many years after its incorporation. As has been truly said, they are no longer problems of construction, but problems of maintenance. In chronicling the events of these later days the historian must deal with plain, unvarnished facts, crowding a maximum of historic information into a minimum of space.

While it will be necessary in some instances to go a decade or two back of the Civil War to properly describe conditions and chronicle events during the modern period of Vernon's history, the Civil War is the point of demarcation between the early and the modern history of the town. In the summary of the town's early history the reader was given a clear idea of what Vernon did for her brave and loyal sons, who enlisted for the war, and what they in turn did for their country. The first chapter of the modern history introduces the reader to the return of these soldiers, showing the conditions that existed in the town of Vernon following the war.

When the news of Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox reached Vernon, there was great rejoicing and a notable demonstration. One by one the Boys-in-Blue came back to their old homes and their families, conscious of having discharged the highest duty of American citizenship. Of the three hundred enlisted men from Vernon, who responded to the great moral call of the Civil War, many lost their lives on the various battlefields or died of wounds in hospitals or elsewhere. Practically all of Vernon's mill owners showed the right spirit toward their employees who answered their country's call in its time of dire need, and toward their families who were left at home, in many cases to battle with life alone. The American Mills' conduct along these lines was particularly noteworthy.

VERNON AND THE WAR WITH SPAIN.

Just a third of a century after one of the grandest wars ever fought by man for man, the tocsin of war again sounded throughout the land. This time the United States was forced



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF COMPANY C, taken on Union Church steps in May, 1898, previous to departure of company for Niantic to be mustered into the United States service.

to teach Spain a lesson. Because she persisted in the practices of the fifteenth century in the closing years of the nineteenth century, refusing to advance with the modern laws of humanity, we entered upon a unique war, standing alone amidst all the wars of history. The young men who marched through Rockville's streets on May 4, 1898 were the exact counterpart of the young men of '61. Never in Rockville's history was there more patriotism displayed than when Company C left for Niantic to be mustered into the United States service. Over five thousand people saw them off. Public buildings and private residences were covered with "Old Glory," business was suspended and the boys departed amid cheers and tears. It was a source of great satisfaction to know that the manufacturers had made arrangements to provide for the families whose husbands or other members enlisted for the war. The sum of $25 per month was given to the married men and $15 per month to the single men. Company C was the banner company of the regiment, a greater percentage of its men having passed the rigid medical examination, which goes to show that the men were in their prime and enjoyed vigorous health.

The First Regiment having been assigned to the peaceful department of the East, Company C boys did not get into the thick of the fight. They sacrificed much, however. Some died, while others endured long sieges of sickness. That they did not go across the waters was no fault of theirs. They offered themselves, as did the boys of '61, for any sacrifice which might be called for.

They were gone away from home a few days over six months, spending the time after leaving Niantic at Jerry's Point, Portsmouth, N. H. and Camp Alger, Va. They received a grand ovation and reception on their return to Rockville on the evening of November 9, 1898.

ROSTER OF COMPANY C WHEN MUSTERED INTO THE UNITED STATES SERVICE AT CAMP HAVEN, NIANTIC, MAY 17, 1898, BY LIEUTENANT ROWAN, U. S. ARMY.

OFFICERS.

Captain—Martin Laubscher.

Lieutenants—1st, John Paul Haun; 2nd, Frederick W. Chapman

First Sergeant—James H. Barnett.

Sergeants—Quartermaster, Francis Murray; Charles B. Milne, Arthur W. Gyngell, *James W. Milne, Albert E. Usher.

Corporals—1st, William F. Schillinger; 2nd, Webster Kaye; 3rd, William M. Hefferon; 4th, Arthur A. Gerich; 5th, William J. Breen; 6th, Albert E. M. Profe.

Musicians—William J. Finley, Walter F. McCray.

Artificer—Henry M. Seipt.

Wagoner—George B. McClellan.

Privates—George N. Aborn, Charles R. Anderson, Sylvester E. Arnold, Ernest E. Austin, Albert C. Bartlett, James A. Beaumont, Charles E. Binch, Richard Brache, Frank S. Breen, Hugo Broll, Harry J. Brown, Elmer W. Cahoon, Frank D. Chadwick, Richard G. Champion, Perlin L. Charter, Wilbur F. Charter, Jesse Clift, William J. Connolly, John Connors 2d., Jewett Collum, Philip Diedering, Jr., John Donovan, Frank P. Dowd, Francis F. Einsiedel, James B. Farrell, Francis P. Fitzpatrick, Joseph H. Flynn, Otto Flossbach, David E. Fox, Herman P. Franz, John E. Gawtrey, Thomas F. Golden, George F. Gorham, *Felix Gross, Manville Grumback, John F. Haun, John J. Hecker, George A. Hewitt, Andrew Hopf, Squire Jackson, James S. Jones, Martin T. Leamy, Robert H. Lehmann, Jason D. Lowell, Charles F. Ludwig, James H. Lutton, Joseph H. Lutz, Thomas P. Lynch, William E. Lyons, Matthew McNamara, Philip J. Mahr, Frank L. Manion, Ferdinand A. Matthewson, George Meyer,

*Died of typhoid fever, contracted while in the service of the United States.

George H. Miller, Thomas L. Millot, Thomas F. Moore, John C. Murphy, John L. Murphy, John W. Murphy, William C. Murphy, Patrick J. McCollough, Donald K. McLagen, Matthew N. Nahigian, Thomas F. Newbury, Francis M. Norton, John J. O'Neil, William Phillips, Frederick J. A. H. Profe, James J. Quinn, Robert H. Rau, Charles H. Rauschenbach, John Regan, Emil R. Schwerwitzky, Carl C. Schmeiske, Emil W. Schmeiske, Ernest A. Sharpe, Isaac Simms, John H. Smith, Freedrick W. Stengel, Henry H. Tracy, Herman C. Wagner, Charles J. Waidner, Anthony Wannegar, Walter J. Willis, Howard Winchell.

Charles H. Thrall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius S. Thrall of this city, who was in Havana, Cuba, previous to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, in charge of an electric light station, had a thrilling experience that he is likely to remember as long as he lives. After war had been declared, Mr. Thrall, who had been in this country, set sail for Cuba, where he was employed in the interests of the United States government and as a correspondent for the New York papers. He was taken a prisoner, with others, at Salado Beach by two companies of Spanish batteries. He was conducted to the Cuban fortress, Morro Castle, by seven of the Civil Guards and confined there. He was finally exchanged. The incidents surrounding his capture would form a very interesting chapter.

During the Spanish-American War Dr. Thomas F. Rockwell of this city was major and surgeon on the staff of General Charles L. Burdett, having volunteered his services. On May 4, 1898, he was appointed post surgeon of the military post at Niantic, Conn., under Brigadier-General George Haven, and he served as consulting surgeon in the First Division Hospital at Camp Alger, Va. His military career has been a long and honorable one.

UPHOLDING MILITARY TRADITIONS.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War a Grand Army Post was organized in this city, but owing to dissensions in the ranks of its members it was short lived. It was one of the pioneer

posts of the state. After its disbandment, a Veterans' Association was formed among many of the local veterans of the Rebellion to perpetuate the memory of departed soldiers who had taken part in the memorable conflict from '61 to '65. Burpee Post, No. 71, Department of Connecticut G. A. R. was organized April 23, 1884, with twenty-three charter members, of whom the following are living: A. Park Hammond, D. F. Andrews, Willard Griswold, W. B. Root, H. M. Willis, J. H. Newell, L. N. Charter, John Thompson, Arthur A. Hyde and H. W. Coye. George N. Brigham was the first post commander and Charles W. Wood the post's first adjutant. Since the organization of the post to the present time one hundred and twenty-five veterans have enrolled their names on the membership book. The post is named in honor of the gallant Colonel Burpee of the Twenty-first Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, who was killed at the battle of Cold Harbor on the morning of June 9, 1864 while acting as brigade officer of the day. Colonel Burpee was a Rockville boy. Harvey Davis is the present commander and Julius H. Newell is adjutant.

Burpee Woman's Relief Corps, which has done noble work, co-operating in a splendid manner with Burpee Post, was organized on January 15, 1886 with a membership of about twenty-five. Its present membership is one hundred and fifty-three. Mrs. Anna Dickinson is president. It stood first in the state last year in amount of money given for relief work.

Alden Skinner Camp, No. 45, Sons of Veterans, is named in honor of Alden Skinner, a surgeon of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, who died March 30, 1863, of malarious typhoid fever, contracted in the service of his country. It was orgainzed May 7, 1890 with twenty charter members. William F. Loomis was captain and Frank B. McPherson, first sergeant. Its present commander is John Felber and its secretary is H. L. Symonds.

Growing out of the Spanish-American War a camp of Spanish War Veterans was organized in Rockville on May 17, 1908, by

Department Commander Henry H. Saunders. The camp is known as James W. Milne Camp, in honor of Sergeant James W. Milne, who lost his life as the result of contracting typhoid fever in that war. It started with twenty-four charter members and its present membership is thirty-four. The adjutant's report at last division encampment showed that the camp had made the largest gain in membership of any of the camps. Martin Laubscher was the first commander, and Arthur W. Gyngell is the present commander.

Back in the early forties there was a military company in Rockville. It was commanded by Captain Chauncey Hibbard and was part of the old state militia. Captain Hibbard being a natural drillmaster, the company furnished many officers during the Civil War and many men who enlisted in that memorable conflict received their first training in this company, and it proved valuable training. The company, which was known as Company C, subsequent to the war finally disbanded. On February 25, 1890, a company was organized in Rockville and was accepted as a part of the state militia, taking the name of Company C. The late Sheriff Amasa P. Dickinson was captain, Frederick H. Linker, first lieutenant and Martin Laubscher second lieutenant. For several years the company led the regiment in figures of merit. The present officers of the company are: Captain, James H. Lutton; first lieutenant, Michael J. O'Connell; second lieutenant, Albert E. Scharf.

The Hammond Drum Corps, organized by J. C. Hammond, Jr., brought fame to Rockville back in the early seventies. It participated in a great many memorable parades in various parts of the country. It continued in existence for several years, finally reorganizing. It has held several notable reunions.

Rockville has had several good bands in its history, but is without a local band at the present time.

VERNON AND HER INDUSTRIES.

Snipsic Lake, as a water power, has contributed very largely to the prosperity of the town of Vernon. Through its outlet

the winding, sinuous Hockanum, it pours down a grade of two hundred and fifty-six feet to the mile and a half into the valley below, furnishing one of the finest and most easily available water powers to be found in America. The water possesses a superior quality, which gives it a special value. The supply is practically inexhaustible, and the descent is so rapid and steady that the power may be used over and over again, at surprisingly short intervals. To the genius of "Snip," as it is affectionately known, Rockville is indebted for its growth and development during the past century. The beautiful Hockanum is the magic wand which has transformed an unfertile, unpromising, and what appeared at one time to be a worthless tract of land, into a thriving city of substantial mills, modern streets and beautiful residences. By its invisible arm, gravitation, Snipsic daily sets in motion nearly a score of water wheels, and for the space of more than a mile the Hockanum is literally studded with shops and factories. "Snip" is the ruling, the motive power, men and machinery being but the agents to do its bidding.

Aside from its importance as a motive power to run machinery, Snipsic Lake is a very interesting and attractive spot. Indeed, situated as it is, in the Tolland hills, it is one of Connecticut's most beautiful glimpses of forest and water. In its setting and adornment Nature has been most prodigal of her charms. Few New England lakes surpass it in beauty, although in size it is not large, covering five hundred and twenty-five acres. The original lake was half that. It is five hundred and fifteen feet above the sea level. Prior to 1847 Snipsic dam was five feet and ten inches high; in 1847 ten feet were added; in 1864, seven feet, in 1872, three feet and eight inches, making the present dam twenty-six feet and six inches from bottom to coping. From top of the dam to and including Windermere privilege, the Hockanum River, fed by Snipsic Lake, has a fall of three hundred and nine feet.

The company's first main in 1847 was an 8-inch cement pipe, and the first line of pipe came down to what was then a reservoir basin in Central Park. This reservoir basin,

which was piped, supplied the lower part of the village. In 1866 a 12-inch cast iron main was laid in place of the 8-inch main. In 1893 and 1894 a 20-inch cast iron main was laid, which extends as far as the corner of West Main Street and Vernon Avenue. On Union, Prospect and Brooklyn Streets 10-inch mains have been laid and on all the other city streets 6-inch mains are in use.

Snipsic furnishes Rockville with its domestic water supply, which is of great abundance, superior quality, with good gravity and high pressure service. The business is conducted by the Rockville Water and Aqueduct Company, which at the present time is largely composed of the mill owners of the city. Originally a stock affair, it was organized in October, 1847, with a capital of $7,000. The first meeting was held at the Leeds office on November 11, 1847. George Kellogg was the first president and Phineas Talcott first secretary and treasurer. In 1866 the needs of the village demanded better service than the old company with its limited capital and capacity could give. Having secured a charter from the legislature at the May session in the above named year, the company was reorganized with J. J. Robinson as president and J. C. Hammond, Jr., as secretary and treasurer. A. Park Hammond is the president of the company at the present time and J. C. Hammond, Jr., the present secretary and treasurer, has served the company in this capacity for forty-four consecutive years — a remarkable record. The company has kept pace with the growth of the town and at the present time has one hundred and fourteen city hydrants, about fifty private hydrants, and about twenty miles of pipe. Prior to 1894 the high service was supplied by wells and cisterns. In 1904 the present pumping station and standpipe were erected.

The office was located in the New England Mill until 1877, when it was moved to a room in the rear of the Citizens' Block, where the post office was then located. Since June, 1890, it has been located on the second floor in the Rockville National Bank Building.

Snipsic Lake is conceded to be the best illustration of an artificial reservoir to be found in Connecticut, if not in the country.

The most important event in the history of the local water company was the consolidation that took place between the old Rockville Water Power Company and the Rockville Aqueduct Company. On March 1, 1893, a special enactment drawn by the late A. P. Hyde was obtained from the General Assembly, merging and consolidating the two companies. A meeting was held in the Rock Mill office, at which a charter was adopted. All the mill owners and manufacturers were present, and they became interested in the new company. Previous to the consolidation, the Rockville Water Power Company had to do largely with water for power purposes, while the Rockville Aqueduct Company was interested principally in water for domestic purposes.

Vernon's era of industrial pursuits arrived in the early twenties. Their development during the germinating period, however, was not exempt from adverse influences. "Industries," as understood in our modern classification were not any too prominent during the early period of the town's history, the period from the date of the incorporation of the town in 1808 down to 1845. As these have been referred to in the preceding pages under the head, "Early History," it isn't necessary to again call attention to them. There is a vast difference between early and modern industrial life. With the growth of the years a change swept over the community—a change likely to sweep over any community with a similar environment, surroundings and conditions.

The first notable expansion in the industrial life of Vernon took place in the forties, and it can be truthfully said that the years 1847, 1848 and 1849, marked a distinct epoch—an epoch of industrial progress. The mills built during these years greatly added to the volume of business and enhanced the material prosperity of the town. The panic of 1857, which was national, paralyzing industries all over the country, hit Vernon hard and there was an extended period of business depression.

There was no marked rally until the breaking out of the Civil War, when there was an urgent demand for goods for army purposes. The Rockville mills, like mills in other places, had desirable contracts. Those mills that did not care to take army contracts found a ready market for all the goods they could manufacture. During the years of the war, and immediately following the war up to 1865, times were good and optimism prevailed in the industrial life of the town. While there was a gradual growth and development, there was no marked period of expansion akin to the expansion of '49. In the fifties, overseers in the Rockville mills earned from $1.50 to $2.50 per day, and other mill help was paid in proportion. The salaries paid to the mill officers were not large. George Kellogg, affectionately known as "Uncle George," head of the Rock Mill for many years, received the very modest salary of $1,000. A. C. Crosby, superintendent of the same mill, received what was considered then a very high salary, $1,500. When Thomas M. Barrows was engaged to come to Rockville and manage the American Mills at a salary of $2,500 per year, many of the other mill owners were actually scandalized. After the close of the war, a readjustment took place owing to changed financial conditions. When Lee surrendered at Appomattox, gold was selling at 270, and the cost of living had greatly increased. While naturally there was an inflation in wages, it didn't begin to compare with the increased cost of living. From 1865, up to the present time, Vernon's industrial life has shown a slow but healthy growth. Old concerns have passed away, new concerns have come, additions and enlargements have been going on. There have been periods of industrial activity and depression. Small industries have expanded into gigantic corporations with millions of capital, until today the town of Vernon enjoys an international reputation as a great woolen center.

At the present time there are twelve manufacturing concerns in the town of Vernon doing business on a large scale. They are for the most part corporations chartered by the state. There are, however, several smaller enterprises conducted by private firms. Of the twelve companies nine are engaged in the manufacture

of fine woolen and worsted goods. These are the Hockanum, Springville, New England and Minterburn Mills, the Rock Manufacturing Company, the American Mills Company, the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company, Talcott Brothers and the Rockville Worsted Company.

The goods of many of the companies exhibited at Chicago in competition with the best English, French and German makers were unhesitatingly pronounced by expert judges to be equal, if not superior, to any worsted goods in the manufacturing department. Thus as a result of this exhibition, it has been shown beyond peradventure of doubt that, so far as quality of goods is concerned, our American manufacturers have nothing to fear from foreign competition, and it has also been proved that Rockville stands at the very forefront, the products of its woolen manufacturing plants commanding world-wide attention and challenging the admiration of expert judges in the woolen industry.

To show the great reputation of the goods produced in the factories of the Hockanum Mills Company, it may be said that they have made suits to be worn at the inauguration by three different presidents of the United States, the Springville Company having made the suit worn by President Harrison, the Hockanum Company the suit worn by President McKinley, and the Springville Company the suit worn by President Roosevelt.

The cloth of which these different suits was made was sold thereafter as among the highest price fabrics on the market, and were named "Inauguration" cloth, "McKinley" cloth and "Presidential" cloth, respectively.

The cloths were all similar fabrics, being black undressed worsted made of the very finest counts of yarn used in men's wear goods. These yarns took many months to produce, as they were from the very finest selected wool that could be obtained by taking the very best lots from an immense quantity of wool. The goods were London shrunk at the mills and were turned out with a very soft and beautiful finish.

The mills of this association made the first men's wear goods that were produced in this country from worsted yarn. The

HOUSE WHERE WOOLEN MANUFACTURING was first started in town of Vernon.

IN 1804, JOHN WARBURTON utilized this "lower" privilege as a wool-carding plant.

FIRST MILL IN VERNON—Built in 1795-6 by John Warburton on this site.

PIONEER WOOLEN FACTORY from which Rockville derives its name. Old Rock Woolen Factory erected in 1821 by Colonel Francis McLean.

FIRST WOOLEN MILLS in Rockville. Twin mills erected by E. Nash on the old Hockanum site about 1814.

Hockanum Mill has undoubted proof of this from testimony of yarn manufacturers, that their books showed the first sales of worsted yarn to any men's wear mills were made to the Hockanum.

Prior to 1841-42 the only goods manufactured by the New England Mill were cotton warps. It was decided to commence the manufacture of all--wool fancy "Kerseymeres," and the new looms came from the original George Crompton. It was from Mr. Crompton that Captain Hammond learned designing. The New England Company's looms turned out the first all-wool "Fancies" made in America.

In 1906 the Hockanum Mills Company was organized as a holding corporation by the stockholders of the Hockanum, Springville, New England and Minterburn Companies, with a view to centralizing the business. The capital stock is $6,000,000. Under the new plan the four mills combined for the buying of raw material. The selling of the finished product has also been facilitated by the change.

The officers of the Hockanum Mills Company at the present time are:

President—F. T. Maxwell.

Vice-President—Robert Maxwell.

Secretary and Treasurer—William Maxwell.

General Superintendent—David A. Sykes.

Assistant General Superintendent—Charles S. Bottomley.

Assistant Treasurer and Paymaster—A. Park Hammond.

Purchasing Agent—M. C. Mason.

Assistant Paymaster—George B. Hammond.

Office Managers—Hockanum, J. E. Maynard; New England, George B. Hammond; Minterburn, S. Tracy Noble.

Superintendents — Hockanum, Nelson Little; Springville, James A. Elliott; New England, Frank Eastwood; Minterburn, Frank P. Reiser.

The total yearly output in dollars and cents of the four mills in the Hockanum Mills Company is $3,500,000, and the total weekly payroll is $14,000.

A new central office building has just been completed for the Hockanum Mills Company just east of the Springville Mill office. It is a two and one-half story brick building with brown stone trimmings, 70x50 feet in size.

A new dyehouse has also just been completed. It is a one-story brick and concrete building with monitor roof, having a very complete ventilating system, which disposes of steam. It is 190x75 feet in size.

HOCKANUM PLANT.

The Hockanum plant today comprises five mills, the main one being 375x45 feet, four stories high, built of wood and brick, with a wing 180x56 feet, four stories, built of concrete reinforced with steel; finishing mill 250x40 feet, constructed of brick; dyehouse 75x40 feet, connected to main mill four stories high. There is also a large brick boiler house and engine house. The plant uses about 500-horse power.

The mills are equipped with 156 broad looms and 15 sets of cards and 4,440 spindles. There are also four large tubular steam boilers of 400-horse power and a steam engine of 350-horse power. Some twelve electric motors are used doing away with much belting and shafting. The mills are equipped throughout with automatic sprinklers and all advanced methods for protection against fire. Employment is given to 325 operatives.

THE SPRINGVILLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Springville mill, which was established in 1833 by the late Chauncey Winchell, in 1866, just a third of a century later, underwent a wonderful expansion. At that time the property was purchased by the late George Maxwell and the late George Sykes, who soon commenced the removal of the old mill, replacing it with a much larger one of stone and brick, 300 feet long and 45 feet wide, with two wings, each 100x50 feet, and all four stories high, equipped with automatic sprinklers and all up-to-date appliances for fire protection. Other buildings are the dyehouse, boiler and engine house, and storehouse, all built of

brick and modern and commodious. One hundred horse power is developed by water and 600 by three large steam boilers. One large 200-horse power engine furnishes the steam power. A 75-horse power dynamo and engine furnish the electric lights.

Eight sets of cards and 135 broad looms and 3,500 spindles comprise the equipment. Employment is given to 350 operatives.

THE NEW ENGLAND COMPANY.

The New England's group of buildings on Vernon Avenue include a large frame and brick structure, also dyehouse and boiler house, constituting an important factor in Rockville's industrial life. The finished product amounts to nearly 350,000 yards annually.

The plant will compare favorably with the other plants in the Hockanum Mills Company. Its equipment is first class in every respect, there being 9 sets of cards at the present time, 114 broad looms and 600 spindles. The mill is equipped with dynamos for providing their own light. Power is furnished by steam engines of 225-horse power. Employment is provided for 300 operatives.

The old wooden water wheel, which has been in use at the New England mill since 1860, was used for the last time on Thursday, August 20, 1909. Work commenced on the following day on the tearing out of the old wheel. While the new turbine water wheel was being placed in position, the plant was run wholly by steam power. The completion of the new turbine wheel is a decided improvement, the mill now being run by electric drive, the water power being utilized to run a generator providing electricity for power.

The old mill wheel, which provided 120-horse power, was 24 feet in diameter and 16 feet wide. It was the largest water wheel in the city.

THE MINTERBURN MILLS COMPANY.

This is the youngest of the four companies comprising the Hockanum Mills Company. It occupies the old site of the Rock-

ville Warp Mills Company, being the first plant on the Hockanum River. It was incorporated in 1906, and after tearing down the old and dilapidated buildings on the site, work was commenced on the erection of a handsome, modern concrete construction building, which is likely to stand for a generation. It is the largest mill in the city and one of the finest in New England of concrete construction.

The main building is 300 feet long by 56 feet wide, five stories high. It is equipped with the latest approved automatic sprinklers and an improved steam plant of 250-horse power has been installed in a boiler and engine house in the rear of the main building. A chimney of concrete construction 165 feet high, in connection with the mill, is one of the sights in the east end of Rockville. No better lighted or ventilated mill, manufacturing woolen and worsted goods can be found in the country.

Opposite the main mill is the warehouse, constructed of brick, 100x45 feet, and an office building containing counting room, large vault, private office and directors' room, lighted by electricity.

The machinery is the very best money can buy. The mill is equipped with 68 broad looms and there are 4,080 spindles. Employment is given to 225 hands.

THE ROCK MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The plant of the Rock Manufacturing Company comprises twelve buildings at the present time. The main mill, which is 300 feet long and five and one-half stories high, attracts the attention of all visitors to the city. The equipment is modern throughout, including one of the finest and most up-to-date finishing departments in the country. The plant is equipped with 11 sets of carding machines, 36 spinning mules, 102 broad looms and 10,000 spindles. The company has a valuable water power, having two wheels of 125-horse power each, and also a steam engine of 150-horse power.

The Rock embraces what was formerly the Leeds Mill and has a large group of buildings on West Main Street. Employment is given to 300 operatives. The yearly output of finished

goods amounts to $1,250,000. Some idea of the magnitude of the business may be gained from the fact that the company annually pays to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company about $12,000 in freight charges.

The Rock Manufacturing Company's product, fine coatings, thibets, coverts and uniform cloths, are known far and wide for their fine texture, splendid quality and general excellence.

The Rock Manufacturing Company made the cloth worn by President Benjamin Harrison and Vice-President Levi P. Morton at the centennial celebration of the inauguration of Georg Washington as president of the United States in New York City, April 30, 1889.

The cloth is what is known as a "Clay Twill." It was made from a very fine grade of worsted yarn. There were six thousand seven hundred ends and one hundred and twelve picks of filling to the inch, the dye being alozarine.

Frederick Swindells, a thoroughly practical man in the woolen business, familiar with every detail of manufacture, has been with the company since 1891, first as superintendent and then as agent. He has been president of the company since 1905. Arthur T. Bissell is the secretary and treasurer and Frederick W. Swindells, son of the president, is the superintendent of the mill.

Two buildings, 180x44, one story high, of regular mill construction, were completed in July, 1909. These are used for finishing purposes.

A two-story regular mill construction building, 80x30 feet in size, fire proof, was completed in December, 1909. This is being used for a storehouse.

THE AMERICAN MILLS COMPANY.

Just east of the business center of the city is the main building of the American Mills Company, one of Rockville's industrial landmarks. It is one of the largest buildings used for manufacturing in the city, and is likewise one of the old and substantial concerns, making woolen and worsted goods in Rockville.

The plant, which is an extensive one, turns out an enormous quantity of finished product. It is equipped with the very latest machinery and keeps abreast of the times in every respect. The mill has 86 broad looms, 3 narrow looms, 17 sets of cards, 5,000 spindles. Its employees number 225.

The goods manufactured by the American Mills Company have figured prominently in bringing fame to Rockville as the home of fine woolens and worsteds. Their superior quality has been tested time and time again and found to be of the very highest standard. In addition to its regular line of fine fancy worsteds for men's wear, the American Mills Company manufactures standard and fancy carriage cloths of most novel effects in fancy weaves and beautiful colorings in whip cords, Bedford cords, wide and narrow wales and diagonals.

The officers of the company are: President, George Talcott; agent and treasurer, Charles N. McLean; superintendent, Edward F. Badmington.

TALCOTT BROTHERS.

Talcott Brothers was organized in 1856 by H. W. & C. D. Talcott. The property was purchased of N. O. Kellogg, and consisted of two mills, located respectively on an upper and lower privilege. The upper mill was dismantled by the freshet of 1869, and the lower mill was burned in the same year. Thereupon the two privileges were consolidated, and the present mill erected. The product was principally satinets up to 1875 when a change was made to union cassimeres. In 1907 a grade of fine woolens was added to the line. In 1882, H. G. Talcott became general manager, and M. H. Talcott became associate manager. John G. Talcott entered the firm in 1895, and C. Denison Talcott in 1903.

THE JAMES J. REGAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The James J. Regan Manufacturing Company, which is one of the town's most important industries, has undergone a marvelous growth since it was organized. Today the concern is recognized as one of the largest in the United States in the

manufacture of knit goods for linings. It also occupies an enviable position among the woolen goods manufacturers of the country.

The equipment of the two mills, which comprise the plant of the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company, is thoroughly modern, and the product is well known for its high standard of quality and uniformity. The company's policy has been to produce the best in its line. Of late years the business has increased one hundred per cent.

The company operates 50 looms and 10,000 spindles, and its yearly output of cloth is 400,000 yards (woven) and 1,500,000 yards (knit). The company has 350 employees.

The officers of the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company are: President and treasurer, Francis J. Regan; vice-president and assistant treasurer, Herbert J. Regan. George C. Rice has been with the company for a number of years as head bookkeeper and is a trustworthy and valuable employee.

THE ROCKVILLE WORSTED COMPANY.

This is Rockville's youngest industry. It is only about a year old. On September 6, 1909, Edmund Corcoran of Philadelphia, a practical woolen manufacturer of many years experience, purchased of A. N. Belding the brick mill on East Main Street, known as the Fitch Mill, which previous to its purchase by Mr. Belding had been part of the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company's plant. In December, 1909, the incorporators of the company organized by elected the following officers: President, Frank E. Weedon; vice-president, Thomas M. Corcoran; secretary, Parley B. Leonard; treasurer, Edmund Corcoran; assistant treasurer, Thomas Corcoran, Jr.

Since purchasing the so-called Fitch Mill, Mr. Corcoran has made numerous changes and what repairs were necessary. The mill was equipped with modern machinery. Already there are 52 Knowles looms in operation and 100 hands are employed. It is the company's intention to eventually have 90 looms, 30 on each floor. Within a year or two the company will probably employ

several hundred hands, making a valuable addition to the city's industrial life.

The Rockville Worsted Company produces high grade worsted goods for men's wear.

BELDING BROS. & CO.

The parent mill of Belding Bros. & Co., which is located in this city, was started in 1866, and it has been enlarged and improved from time to time, until today, it bears little likeness to its former self.

On March 30, 1909, Belding Bros. & Co., purchased of the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company the Stone mill, formerly known as the White Mill, and Mill No. 4, formerly known as the Fitch Mill. The latter was sold to Edmond Corcoran of Philadelphia and has been converted into a modern worsted mill. The former mill has been thoroughly overhauled and has been added to the extensive plant of Belding Bros. & Co., in this city. New floors have been put in throughout. All the water has been put onto one water wheel, two new 250-horse power boilers have been installed and a new 350-horse power engine to be used in the event of trouble with the water, or if the water should be low. The entire plant is to be driven by electric power, about 30 individual motors being used. About 10,000 spindles are in operation in the local plant of Belding Bros. & Co. and employment is given to 400 hands.

In addition to its mill in this city, Belding Bros. & Co. have four other mills in Belding, Mich., one in Petaluna, Cal., one in Northampton and one in Montreal. A large addition is being built to the Northampton mill at the present time. The plant is the leading one in size in the silk manufacturing world, but it is not excelled by any other plant in quality of goods turned out. About $8,000,000 business is done annually by the combined mills of this concern.

The officers of the concern are: President, M. M. Belding, jr.; treasurer, M. M. Belding; secretary, A. N. Belding; assistant treasurer, E. C. Young, Chicago; assistant secretary, E. F. Crooks, Northampton, Mass. Halsey L. Allen is superintendent

of the local mill, having filled the position for thirty-eight years.

WHITE, CORBIN & CO.

White, Corbin & Co., now one of the divisions of the United States Envelope Company, was established by the late Cyrus White and the late Lewis A. Corbin, pioneer envelope makers of the country. They commenced in 1855 in a small way, manufacturing envelopes in a frame building 83x39 feet, which they erected. The Puffer machine, capable of turning out 10,000 envelopes a day, which was considered a wonderful output, was used. The business in those days amounted to about $8,000 per annum. Today a business of $600,000 yearly is done and the machines produce 2,000,000 envelopes per day.

The late William H. Prescott, whose services as bookkeeper and accountant had made him indispensable to the firm, was admitted to partnership in 1866, the firm's name becoming White, Corbin & Co. Under the skillful guidance of Mr. Prescott, following the retirement of Mr. White in 1870, the business enjoyed a period of wonderful expansion, until in 1881 it had assumed such proportions that it was imperative that the company should have more room. The Florence Mill, at that time one of the largest and finest plants in Rockville, was purchased, and later enlarged by additions to accommodate the increasing business.

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In 1900 White, Corbin & Co. became one of the divisions of the United States Envelope Company, the late W. H. Prescott, who had been actively identified with the local company and who had a genius for doing business that made him a recognized leader in the industrial world, became a director in 1898 and at the time of his death in 1908 he was a member of the executive committee of the United States Envelope Company.

Frank Keeney is the present agent of the White, Corbin & Co. plant and E. H. Woodford is the superintendent. The plant gives employment to 200 operatives.

E. J. MARTIN'S SONS.

This important industry, which makes the famous Kingfisher brand of silk fish-lines, was started by the late Elisha J. Martin in 1882, who first made braided eye-glass cords. He braided some fish-lines for his friends and they gave such satisfaction that he started their manufacture, renting room and power from Belding Bros & Co. The business developed so rapidly that it was necessary to get more room, and in 1896 a factory was erected. As the business grew and prospered the plant was enlarged. The factory is 200x30 feet, two stories and a basement, being the most modern and best equipped fish-line factory in this country. Power is furnished from a 100-horse power steam boiler and a 20-horse power steam engine. Six hundred power operated braiding machines are kept in constant operation. The company has 25 employees.

The E. J. Martin's Sons' specialties are raw and finished silk lines, variegated waterproof lines, mottled P. & S. lines, oiled silk lines, Potomac bass lines, extra quality trout lines, Italian trout and bass lines, bait casting lines, slickest casting lines, Italian casting lines, extra strength waterproof lines, enameled oil silk fly lines, russet enamel lines, mist color enamel lines, highest quality enamel lines.

A. L. Martin, son of the founder, has conducted the business since his father's death in 1899, and under his able management it has more than doubled its production, till today it is the leader in silk fish-lines in this country.

THE ACKERLY MILLS.

The Ackerly plant at Vernon, formerly the Ravine and Phoenix Mills, gives employment to about 50 operatives. Since purchasing the plant less than two years ago, Mr. Ackerly has made several improvements. Twine and cheese-cloth are manufactured. A large and successful business has been built up.

VERNON WOOLEN COMPANY.

The plant of the Vernon Woolen Company was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning, October 12, 1909, making serious inroads on the prosperity in the lower part of the town. The site and privilege are for sale, the owners having decided not to rebuild.

THE VERNON CREAMERY COMPANY.

The Vernon Creamery Company, butter manufacturers, was incorporated in 1888 with a capital of $3,500. Its product is known all over the country, the company having been awarded numerous gold and silver medals, including first premium at the Paris Exposition. The president of the company is Alfred O. Thrall and the superintendent is Arthur W. Annis. The plant is located at 171 High Street, corner of Vernon Avenue.

THE GRANITE PAPER MILLS.

The Granite Paper Mills, located at Talcottville, manufacture binder boards, album boards and leather boards. The mill is a one-machine one, capable of turning out four tons in twenty-four hours. Included in the property are two double tenement houses and one single tenement. E. D. Alvord and J. L. Brown are the owners.

In addition to the above named industrial enterprises, there are several smaller industrial enterprises in the town, conducted by private individuals, among them being a lace factory on Vernon Avenue, owned and operated by John U. Heller and family.

ROCKVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The Rockville Gas and Electric Company had its beginning in 1862 as the Rockville Gas Light Company. In 1890, when the electric department was added, the name was changed to The Rockville and Ellington Street Railway Company, and in 1897, by a legislative act the present name was adopted. The late George Maxwell was the founder. Under the present company, the plant has been enlarged and a great many improvements have been made. A. M. Young of New York is president of the company and M. J. Warner of that city secretary and treasurer. William M. Lewis is the general manager.

The company has in use 4,700 incandescent lamps, 80 are lamps and 30 incandescents in street lighting.

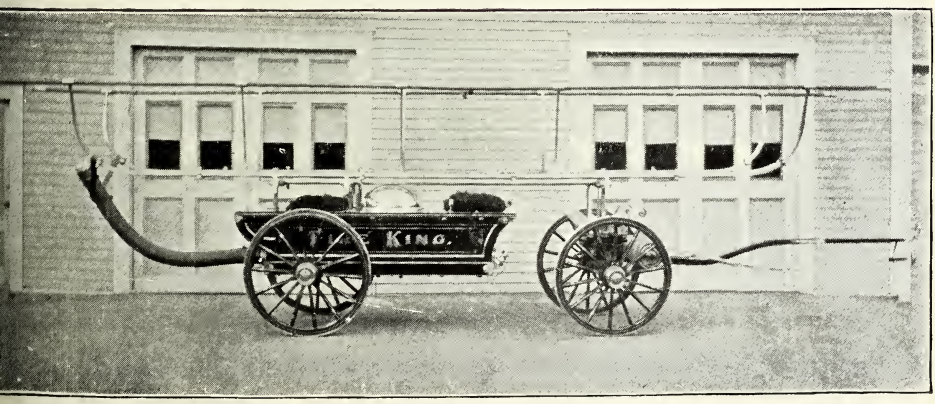
TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL FACILITIES.

The transformation that has taken place in the methods of transportation in the town of Vernon since its incorporation is certainly marvelous. The good old days—the days of the tavern and stage coach—have gone, and with them, much of the spirit of neighborliness and human interest. The fascination that characterized early day traveling has largely disappeared with the advent of steam and electric power. The whirligig of time is moving onward and it will be hardly a greater change for the next generation to travel by aeroplane.

The late Harvey King, who owned and occupied a portion of what is now the St. Bernard Terrace property, was the proprietor of the stage route between Rockville and Vernon Depot, and George Brown, here in our midst today, hale and hearty, a venerable old gentleman, beloved by the entire community, was wont to pull the ribbons over the four large horses that drew the stage. Mr. King kept from twenty to thirty horses for his different stage routes. One of these routes extended from Rockville to Warehouse Point, which was the nearest railroad center. The late Thomas Blake, one of Rockville's famous old fire fighters, who had the proud distinction of running Hartford's first fire propeller, was driver of this line. Among other stages was one from Rockville to Hartford, also a line from Norwich to Springfield through Rockville and one from Rockville to Tolland. It took from two and a half to three hours to drive into Hartford. The trip in and out was made in the same day. Usually the stage left about 8:30 o'clock in the morning and got into Hartford before noon. The start from Hartford on the return trip was made about four o'clock in the afternoon. Practically all the mails were carried by the stage coach. There were two large barns connected with the hotel, where from forty to fifty horses were kept. The stages which were high class affairs, costing a good bit of money, would carry from thirty-five to forty passengers, with baggage. From four to six horses were used and the driver would swing them around in front of the Rockville House with all of the dignity of a

VARBURTON INN—Built and occupied by John Warburton in 1800. This photograph was taken in 1867.

OLD TAVERN AT DOBSONVILLE, where "Bije" Evans, one of the town characters in early days, fiddled for "the breakdown."



FIRST FIRE FIGHTERS IN CONNECTICUT—"Old Fire King," with which is related most of the narratives of heroism in Vernon and Rockville.

railroad president, while the horn which be carried would announce his arrival. It was nothing short of criminal for the mails to be late, and it was therefore up to the stage coach driver to see that there were no delays. The daily paper, along with the letters, came by stage route, and as far back as the early thirties the *Hartford Courant,* which was an especially good paper for those times, was a welcome visitor and one of the daily pleasures was waiting for the stage coach to arrive with the mail. News did not travel as fast in the early days as it does now, and there was an eagerness and expectancy to get a newspaper to see what was going on in the world. From 1849, when the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad was opened, the stages ran from Rockville to Vernon instead of from Rockville to Hartford, and in 1863, when the Rockville Railroad was built the stage coach was no more. Its days of usefulness were about over and it became an affectionate reminder of an age that had its compensations as well as its drawbacks.

Among some of the famous taverns of the early days around which are associated many facts of great historic interest, may be mentioned King's Stage House, now the town almshouse, Waffle Tavern, which for many years was owned and occupied by Lorenzo R. Sparrow on South Street and the Sullivan house at Dobsonville. The old hotel, the first public house in Rockville, built in 1843 by William T. Cogswell on the site of the present Rockville House, was a lively place during the stage coach days. It was headquarters for many of the stages. The first landlord was Asaph McKinney, who kept it for three and one-half years, when he was succeeded by Francis Keeney, father of Mrs. W. H. Prescott. Both landlords were popular with the public during the later period of the stage coach days. Among the old stage coach drivers may be mentioned the following: "Joe" Phelps, father of Lester D. Phelps, Dwight Cabot, Frank Johnson, Lincoln Childs, John Talcott, and Harvey Perrin. Among the stage drivers of a later generation were Harvey King, Thomas Blake and George M. Brown, the only one of the stage coach drivers living today.

Rockville was without a railroad of any kind until in the sixties. The four and one-half mile coach and teaming space to Vernon Depot began to seem long, and so enterprising citizens decided to get a move on, to use the vulgar parlance of the present day, and preparations were commenced to find a way "out of the woods." To William R. Orcutt, the people of Vernon are indebted for bringing civilization a little nearer to Rockville and Rockville a little nearer to civilization. He was the energetic promoter of the road, which became known as the Rockville Railroad, and did more than any other one man to get it started. It was built by a chartered company and the stock was all owned in Rockville. While the charter for the road was procured from the legislature in 1857, it was some five years later when the company was organized, with the following directors: Phineas Talcott, Allen Hammond, George Kellogg, E. B. Preston, and William R. Orcutt. Phineas Talcott was president and E. B. Preston, clerk and treasurer. The late William R. Orcutt was the road's first superintendent. The road was opened for travel August 11, 1863, right in the midst of the Civil War. The first conductor was Amos H. Putnam and a Mr. Golden was the first engineer. George M. Brown was the first baggagemaster. For seventeen years he was in the employ of the Adams Express Company, carrying the mail to and from the post office until the New York and New England Railroad Company took the road over. John Shanley was the first brakeman and "Sam" Eaton the first fireman. In these days the little ticket office was about two thirds its present size. It was used as a freight office, and in April, 1864, Edward R. Pillsbury entered the freight office and attended to the books, selling tickets part of the time. He served the company with marked fidelity for a period of seventeen years. Retiring from the railroad company, he took up the transformation of that part of the city known as Pillsbury Hill.

On the first Monday in October, 1869, while the town of Vernon was voting money out of the town treasury for town expenses a big washout occurred doing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to property belonging to the town and individuals and ruining the Rockville Railroad. As the

company had no money and as the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Road made a very tempting proposition, it was thought best to accept it and the Rockville Railroad was leased to the above company and run by them for about fifteen years. Afterward it was leased by the New York and New England Company, which paid a rental of about $4,500. For several years it was operated by the "Consolidated," the company simply paying a nominal rent for it. In 1875 the Connecticut Central Road was built from East Hartford to Springfield, and there was a branch from Rockville to Melrose, known as the Melrose Branch, which made connections with the Connecticut Central. Eventually all these roads passed into the hands of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company.

People living here today can recall the little "Betsy" and "Schenipsit" locomotives, nicknamed teakettles, so small, that it has been said that if they jumped the track, the passengers would get out and assist in putting them back on again.

A whole chapter could easily be devoted to the various men in the employ of the Rockville Railroad Company nearly fifty years ago, but limited space forbids but a passing reference to a few. Amos H. Putnam succeeded W. R. Orcutt as superintendent of the road. Henry Vanness must not be forgotten. He is a real old-timer, whose railroad career dates back into the teaming time, when the late "Father" Corey ran a teaming line into Hartford. Mr. Vanness commenced work for the railroad company September 1, 1864, in the freight department. He served in this department about three years and was then given the position of baggage master and brakeman. At that time the company sent a combination car through to Hartford to save the transfer of passengers and baggage at Vernon. He was in charge of this car for about nine years. He also acted as brakeman and switchman in the yard at Rockville. A. H. Putnam, who was superintendent of the branch, also conducted the trains. Owing to poor health Mr. Putnam did not feel able to protect the last runs so he permitted Mr. Vanness to do it for him. The last run in at that time was about eleven o'clock at night. In August, 1879, Mr. Vanness commenced

running the train regularly, making about twenty-eight years he served as conductor. On January 1, 1880 he received from his Rockville friends and others along the line between Rockville and Hartford, a solid gold badge, representing a lantern and containing a single diamond to represent the light. It bore the complimentary inscription *"Semper Paratus."* The late "Father" Corey did teaming for the mills in the early days of the town, Henry was in his employ. He was the only driver he had that he didn't worry about when he didn't get back on time. He knew Henry was doing his best at all times. In his long acquaintance with him he said often to friends that he never knew Henry to swear, tell a lie, drink or forget an errand. When the road was leased to the New England it was necessary for Henry Vanness to get a certificate of character, so to speak, and the best recommendation his townsmen could give him was the one given by "Father" Corey, his former employer, and it was accordingly embodied in a letter sent in by one of the officials of the Rockville Railroad.

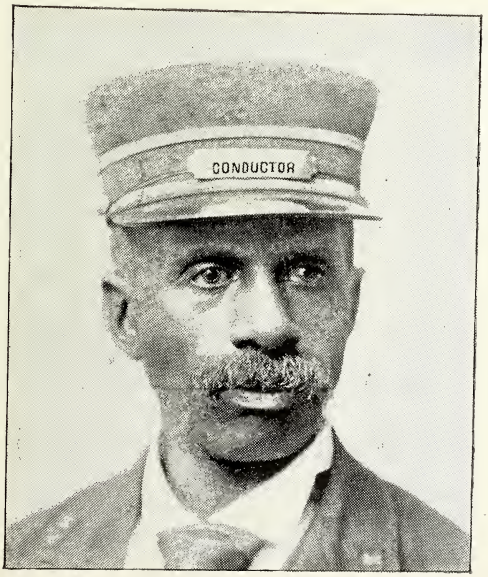
On May 24, 1907 the railroad company retired Mr. Vanness on a liberal life pension in recognition of his faithful and efficient service, he having been connected with the company in various capacities for a period of nearly forty-three years. So far as known, he was the only colored railroad conductor in the country. Mr. Vanness is living in our midst enjoying the respect and esteem of all.

Although there was a branch railroad from Rockville to Vernon, connecting with trains going west to Hartford and points beyond, and going east to Willimantic and points beyond, the facilities for getting in and out of Rockville were very meager until within the past decade. The town of Vernon and city of Rockville had no trolley until 1898. On Saturday, January 8, of that year Rockville became connected with the outside world by trolley. On that day the first car was run by the Hartford, Manchester and Rockville Tramway Company. It was a memorable and never to be forgotten day in the town's history, and marked a new epoch in transportation. Owing to many obstacles that had to be overcome the trolley was a long time coming, and

BUILT IN 1809—Homestead of Ozias Grant on the site of original log cabin built by Samuel Grant, which was the first house in Rockville.

UILT PRIOR TO REVOLUTION—First hotel in Vernon, called "Waffle" Tavern because of famous waffles that were cooked there.

OLD KING STAGE HOUSE where Marquis Lafayette stopped on his visit to the United States .



HENRY VANNESS,
In the Railroad Service for Nearly Forty-three Years. Retired May 24, 1907, on Liberal Life Pension. (Courtesy of Rockville Journal).

when it actually arrived there was genuine rejoicing and the patronage from the outset was large. In January, 1906 the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company assumed control, having purchased the road from the Shaw Syndicate. The road today is operated under the name of the Connecticut Company.

The opening of the trolley road from Warehouse Point to Rockville forms an interesting chapter in the transportation history of the town of Vernon and was an event of much importance to Ellington people, whose transportation facilities for reaching Rockville up to this time were very meager. The first car over the road reached Rockville about one o'clock in the afternoon on May 18, 1906. The road was opened to regular traffic on Sunday, May 20. The week beginning May 21 marked a notable celebration in which Rockville business men rejoiced. During the day the city was gaily decorated and at night the illuminations were brilliant, all in honor of the opening of the road. There were free band concerts and free vaudeville day and evening for an entire week, with big crowds of people on the streets. The week ended with a firemen's parade and muster.

Wednesday, December 4, 1907 the first interurban car arrived in Rockville. It reached the city at 3:42 o'clock, coming from East Hartford. The trip out was uneventful. It was not until Sunday, January 13, 1908 that the interurban service was formally opened to the public. The first interurban car to leave the Rockville depot, over the electrified steam tracks, was No. 3339, which pulled out at seven o'clock in the morning in charge of Conductor P. T. Beaucar and Motorman Edward M. Thrall. Conductor Whetstone of the Highland Division acted as pilot. George Cleveland, of Dobsonville, who boarded the car at Rockville, had the honor of being the first passenger. He rode as far as Vernon. Miss Imogene Corbin, now Mrs. John P. Cameron, was the first woman passenger. To many of the older residents, who had been in the habit of hearing the locomotive whistle for nearly half a century, the doing away of the steam trains, so far as Rockville is concerned, was, indeed, a novelty.

The new trolley line between Rockville and Stafford Springs was officially inspected by the railroad commissioners of the state on Friday, April 17, 1908. Four days previous to this, a car containing trolley officials went over the road. It was in charge of Conductor S. J. Connors and Motorman "Dick" Thrall. People decorated their houses all along the route, and there was general rejoicing. Through the courtesy of Manager W. P. Bristol, of the Hartford Division of the Connecticut Company, a party of Rockville business men and newspaper representatives went over the road on Saturday afternoon, April 18, following a tour of inspection of the line within the city limits on the preceding day, by Alderman David Horgan, chairman of the Public Works Committee, and City Engineer John T. McKnight. On Monday, April 20, the road was formally opened to regular traffic, and Stafford Springs recognized the event, which meant much to them, bringing them into closer touch with Rockville and the outside world, by a notable celebration, in which Rockville shared with Stafford in the rejoicing and merrymaking.

The first post office in Rockville was started during the administration of President John Tyler. Previous to that time the community had no name. It was made up by counting the mills and houses belonging to each corporation. There were several small localities known by different names, to wit: Rock, New England and Stone Mills, Paper Mill, Leeds Mill, Grist Mill, Frank Factory, Springville, Hockanum and Saxony Mills. People coming into the city from the outside would say, "I am going to the Rock." To this day that name is used by many of the earlier settlers and older inhabitants. Naturally there was some strife before a name was selected. Each of the clustering villages around the several mills desired to have its own name adopted. There was a strong desire on the part of many influential people to have the place named Frankfort, in honor of Colonel Francis McLean. It was nip and tuck between the Rock and Frank villages, but the question was put to a vote and "nip" won out and the place was named Rockville, after the Rock Factory, the pioneer factory of the place. Samuel P. Rose, who was the first postmaster, received his appointment May 5, 1842.

Previous to this, for a year or two at least, the mail had been brought from Vernon and distributed by him. The first post office was located in a store, which stood nearly opposite the Johnson Building on what is now Central Park. George Talcott, now president of the First National Bank, was clerk for awhile. In 1844 the Moore Building was erected, which stood next to the present Methodist Church on the Memorial Site, and for sometime previous to its being pulled down was occupied by Carroll and McDonnell. This building was occupied by Samuel P. Rose and Edwin McLean, and it is presumed that the office was kept here for a brief period,

Mr. Rose's appointment did not expire until June 4, 1845. The old building vacated by Mr. Rose was in 1845 fitted up for tenements and moved to the site of the present high school, being the old corner building, which was pulled down. The second post office was opened in the house owned and occupied now by Miss Minerva Stewart on East Main Street. Her father, who was a Democrat, a rarity in those days, was the second postmaster. During the incumbency of Postmaster Stewart there were only about half a dozen stores in the village. There was no railroad. Goods were brought from Hartford, the nearest station, by teams. The population of the village was less than 1,500. It had a hotel, but no saloon, steam cars were not within hearing distance.

The Rockville post office became a presidential one on March 11, 1865.

The postmasters of Rockville with the location of the post offices, from the time the office was first established up to the present time, follow:—

Samuel P. Rose, 1842-'45, Johnson Building, Central Park and Moore Building on present Memorial Building Site: James Stewart, 1845-'49, in ell of house at 147 West Main Street, still standing; Edward McLean, 1849-'53, Moore Building, next to present Methodist Church; Edward P. Allen, 1853-'57, in small building on what is now the site of the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company and also in basement of Rockville Hotel for a short time; William H. Cogswell 1857-'61, in drug store of old

Cogswell Building, the site of which is next north of Preston's furniture store; A. W. Tracy, 1861-'65, in what is now Rockville Hotel barn, which stood on site of present People's Savings Bank on Park Street. For sixteen years the post office was located in this building, being moved to the Citizens' Block in 1879. Since 1903 it has been located in the Prescott Block. There is a resolution now before congress calling for an appropriation of $75,000 for a new Federal building for Rockville. Favorable action is expected and it's a question of only a short time when Rockville will have its post office in a new building owned by the government.

George N. Brigham was postmaster from 1866 to 1886, having served longer than any postmaster in the history of the office. When he retired he was given a testimonial by the citizens of the city. He was succeeded by Wilbur B. Foster, who served from 1886 until 1890, when George W. Randall was appointed, holding the office from 1890 until 1894, when Mr. Foster again took hold, owing to a political change in the administration. Postmaster Randall has beeen in charge from 1899 to the present time. R. L. McChristie is the present assistant postmaster.

The business done at the post office today amounts to about $17,000 per annum. There are three clerks and five carriers, and four rural free delivery routes.

FINANCIAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS.

The financial history of the town of Vernon properly begins with the year 1855. No pressing or urgent need of financial institutions was felt previous to that time. Money was about as scarce a commodity as there was in the community. It didn't begin to change hands as often as it does today. Generally speaking, people carried what money they had in their pockets or in improvised banks. Safe deposit vaults for valuable papers and documents were a luxury. The woolen mills comprised the principal business of Vernon and yearly settlements were the rule with them. Goods, oftener than money, represented the basis of settlement for services rendered, and as nearly all the owners of the woolen mills were interested in the few stores there were in the community, Vernon was what might be called

a close corporation in its early days. Her captains of industry were also her financiers. Of course if the mill employees wanted money instead of its equivalent before the year was up, they went to the mill office after it, and they seldom came away disappointed. The absence of a system of regular payments did not put the town to any great inconvenience, nor was the paucity, or entire lack of local financial institutions, any serious drawback. What little banking business the town of Vernon did in the early days was done with the Tolland County Bank, which was a substantial and influential financial institution, with an extensive business and clients in all parts of the county.

The above-described conditions in the town of Vernon continued in existence until about 1848-49, when new and larger mills were built, at which time the monthly payment system was adopted, continuing in operation until 1887, when a weekly payment law enacted by the state, went into effect. The Rock Mill took the initiative in establishing monthly payments and all the other mills followed suit.

Frenzied finance has always been tabooed in Rockville. Rockville's financial institutions, from the time of their establishment up to the present moment, have been as strong and as sound as the hills upon which the city is built. Conservatism has characterized the management of the local banks. Starting in a small way, the four banks, two savings banks and two national banks, which Rockville boasts of at the present time, have kept pace with the city's development and progress. No effort has been made to push them. Their growth has been entirely natural. For a place its size, Vernon occupies an enviable position in the financial world. The men connected with the management of her financial institutions have reason to be proud of the present financial status of these institutions. They have done their share to make them what they are today.

THE SAVINGS BANK OF ROCKVILLE.

The Savings Bank of Rockville was incorporated in the year 1858, a charter having been obtained at the May session of the

legislature. The bank opened its doors for business on the first day of September in the year in which it was incorporated. Its first banking house was in the frame building on West Main Street, known formerly as King's store, now owned by the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company. In December, 1872, it was moved to its present quarters on Main Street beneath the large Methodist Church and facing Central Park. George Kellogg was the bank's first president and Lebbeus Bissell, father of Arthur T. Bissell, the first secretary and treasurer. He served forty-five consecutive years—a record unequaled—death ending his official career with the bank in October, 1903, at the ripe old age of ninety-three years.

During the first year of the bank's business the deposits amounted to $65,384, and there were 528 depositors. At the present time the bank's assets are $3,080,684 and the depositors number 5,734 with total deposits of $2,812,716.38. From the time it started to do business fifty-two years ago, up to the present time, the bank has issued 28,884 pass books.

The present officers of the bank are: President, William Maxwell; vice-president, George Talcott; secretary and treasurer, Arthur T. Bissell; assistant treasurer, Edwin G. Butler.

PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK.

The People's Savings Bank was started in the year 1870. It opened its doors for business in July of that year. It was located in what is now Preston's furniture store which at that time stood on Park Place, where the store of the E. J. Silcox Company is now located. In 1880, soon after the completion of the present modern block, known as the Henry Building, it was moved to its present location. John W. Thayer, who became prominent in the business and political life of Vernon, was the bank's first president and E. S. Henry was the bank's first treasurer. He has served the bank in this capacity for a period of forty consecutive years..

Another unique distinction has come to the bank. It has a woman secretary and director, Miss Susie Harrington, who has filled the position in a most efficient manner for twenty years.

During the first year of the bank's existence the deposits amounted to $100,000, and there were about 300 depositors. At the present time the bank's assets are $902,916.65, and there are 2,353 depositors. From the organization of the bank down to the present time, over 7,000 pass books have been issued.

The present officers of the bank are: President, Edward H. Preston; vice-president, John E. Fisk; treasurer, E. Stevens Henry; secretary, Miss Susie Harrington.

THE ROCKVILLE NATIONAL BANK.

The Rockville National Bank is over half a century old, having been organized as a state bank in 1855. Its first officers were: President, Allen Hammond; secretary, John N. Stickney; treasurer, Elliott B. Preston. Its capital at the start of business was $300,000. In 1864 it was organized as a national bank. The capital at the present time is $200,000 and the average deposits are $325,000. Previous to 1890 the bank occupied a small one-story brick building, which stood on the same site as its present building. During the fire of April 3, 1888, which destroyed the Second Church, the south side of this building was badly damaged and it was torn down to make room for the present modern banking house.

The officers of the Rockville National Bank at the present time are: President, A. Park Hammond; vice-president, Frank Grant; cashier, Clayton E. Harwood, who has been with the bank in this capacity for twenty years; assistant cashier, Fred H. Holt.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

The First National Bank of Rockville was chartered February 24, 1863, with J. J. Robinson as president. He served but a few months, being succeeded by Clark Holt. Jotham Goodnow, who afterwards became president of the Aetna Fire Insurance company of Hartford, was the bank's first cashier. Its first banking house was located in the brick building still standing and now used for office purposes by the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company. When the bank first started its capital was $100,000, surplus $1,000 and deposits $52,000. Today its

capital is $200,000, surplus and unsecured profits $64,500, deposits $161,000. This is a low mark for deposits, the average being considerably higher. Since 1868 the bank has occupied its present quarters under the Methodist Church on Park Place. On January 23, 1868, George Talcott was elected president of the bank, and he has held this position continuously since, being re-elected each year. He has served the bank as its chief executive officer for a period of forty-three years. This is a record undoubtedly without a parallel in the financial history of the state of Connecticut. Mr. Talcott is eighty-four years old and enjoys the very best of health, being keen mentally and strong and robust physically, more active today than many men twenty-five years his junior. He has spent all but eight years of his life in Vernon. His career in the financial life of the town has been characterized by faithfulness and fidelity.

The present officers of the bank are: President, George Talcott; vice-president, H. L. James; cashier, H. H. Larkum.

BUILDING AND LOAN.

The Rockville Building and Loan Association was organized November 20, 1889 and incorporated June 30, 1903. Its capital stock is $1,000,000 and it has 5,000 shares at a par value of $200 a share. Its first officers following its incorporation were: President, A. Park Hammond; vice-president, C. E. Harris; secretary and treasurer, J. P. Cameron; treasurer, C. E. Harwood. Its present officers are: President, A. Park Hammond; vice-president, Frank Grant; secretary, Charles N. Fitch; treasurer, C. E. Harwood. Its assets amounted to $112,445.96 on January 1, 1911.

THE PRESS AND EDUCATION.

Newspaper publishing in Rockville properly begins with the year 1854, and Curtis B. Wells, deceased, was the pioneer newspaper publisher of the city. He started a paper known as the *Tolland County Gazette.* Following the *Gazette* came the *Tolland County Republican.* Both were short lived. United States Treasurer James Gilfillan was interested in newspaper publishing in Rockville in the early days. From the old Simpson Block, A. B. Warner established the *News,* which he sold out to the late J. A. Spaulding, who changed its name to the *Tolland County Journal,* its first issue appearing February 7, 1867. Mr. Spaulding continued his ownership of the *Journal* until January 27, 1872, when he sold out to J. N. Stickney & Son. From 1880 until 1881, it was conducted by French Brothers of North Brookfield, Mass., who purchased it of J. N. Stickney & Co. Thomas S. Pratt became proprietor about the middle of May in 1881, publishing the same in connection with a job printing plant until March, 1905, when he sold out. The plant is now owned by a stock company. The present editor of the *Journal* is Charles S. Greer. The plant is located in the Rockville Opera House Block, and the paper is an eight-page one, six columns to the page. It is issued weekly, making its appearance on Thursday.

On Tuesday, January 28, Thomas S. Pratt, for twenty-four years publisher and proprietor of the *Rockville Journal,* died and on April 29, 1908, B. L. Burr, founder of the *Leader* and associated with it as owner and editor for twenty-six years, died.

The *Rockville Leader,* Tolland County's only semi-weekly newspaper, is the outgrowth of the *Tolland County Gleaner,* which was bought out by B. L. Burr, who had successfully conducted a Rockville department in the *Stafford Press.* It made its first appearance on May 9, 1875. It was a small four-page paper, five columns to the page and was printed at the White, Corbin & Co., Envelope Works, only one page being printed at once. A. W. Phillips succeeded Mr. Burr as owner and he was succeeded by L. J. Washburn of New York.

In February, 1879, Mr. Burr bought the material (not the paper) and started the *Tolland County Leader.* Associated

with him in the business was J. A. Byron. This partnership continued until August, 1888, when it was dissolved; Mr. Burr continuing the publication until October, 1897, when he disposed of the business to Rady and Brown. On February 24, 1898, the name of the paper was changed to the *Rockville Leader*. T. F. Rady bought Mr. Brown out in July, 1904 and the publishers of the paper since then have been T. F. Rady & Co. For several years the plant was located on Brooklyn Street. On March 20, 1908, Mr. Rady purchased the Butler property on East Main Street, making many changes and improvements in the newspaper department and in the job printing plant, introducing the latest modern machinery, including a linotype machine. The second floor of the present Leader Building was rented by J. A. Spaulding, where the *Rockville Journal* was first issued.

The *Rockville Leader* is a four-page, seven-column paper. Its present editor is Harry C. Smith. Its publication days are Tuesdays and Fridays.

The school system in the town of Vernon is in a condition of advanced development and has a large and suitable equipment. From earliest times citizens of the town of all classes have taken keen interest in educational affairs. As a matter of fact, the people have begrudged money spent for educational purposes less than that spent for any other purpose. For a small manufacturing town, Vernon has a high reputation and stands at the very forefront as an educational center. The town has every reason to be proud of the teaching corps of its schools. The high average scholarship is conclusive proof that it is of the best.

Modern education in Vernon advanced in 1870 by the erection of a second regular school building on the inauguration of a High School course. It was under district management until June 20, 1893, when the first town High School committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. A. R. Goodrich, Wilbur B. Foster, A. M. Gibson, James Dingwell, and William V. McNerney.

After the completion of the new building in 1870 the second

floor of the old building was refurnished with new single desks and the number occupying this floor considerably reduced.

Randall Spaulding was the first principal following the establishment of a first High School course, and the first class graduated in 1873, which consisted of Thomas Goodell and his brother Edwin B. Goodell. These brothers graduated from Yale in the class of 1877, the former being a member of the faculty at the present time of Yale University and a distinguished Greek scholar. He wrote the commemorative poem for the centennial celebration of the town of Vernon, June 28 to July 4, inclusive.

The present High School Building, which cost about $40,000, was dedicated September 5, 1893 and was used immediately as the Public High School of the town of Vernon. The present High School Committee consists of William Maxwell, chairman; George P. Wendheiser, secretary and treasurer; Lyman T. Tingier, Horace G. Talcott and Dr. F. W. Walsh. Harry Brooks Marsh, M. A., is the principal of the High School and Philip M. Howe, M. A., assistant principal. Ten teachers compose the faculty. There are three courses. The enrollment at the opening of the fall term in September, 1910, was one hundred and seventy-nine, one hundred from Vernon and seventy-nine from other towns. The cost of running for the year begun in September, 1910, is estimated at $9,750.

There are thirty-four graded public schools in the town, with free text books, teaching music, besides the regular course. Manual training and sewing are taught in all the schools within the city limits. The districts are: East, West, Northeast, Southeast, South, Talcottville Southwest, Vernon Center and Northwest. Schools are maintained in all these districts, with the exception of the Southeast, where the pupils are conveyed to Rockville, attending the East District. A school is also maintained at the Tolland County Temporary Home for Children at Vernon Center. The enumeration of children October 1, 1910, follows:

East District	796
West District	636
Northeast	126

South	56
Center	77
Talcottville	38
Southwest	41
Northwest	20
Southeast	20
County Home	36
	1846

There are thirty-seven teachers employed, including the teachers of music, drawing and writing, in the district schools of the town.

The board of education of the town of Vernon at the present time consists of M. H. Talcott, president; S. T. Noble, secretary and acting school visitor; Dr. T. F. O'Loughlin, acting school visitor; E. G. Butler, Dr. J. E. Hassett and Fred Woodhall. Dr. A. R. Goodrich, who died December 20, 1908 was a member of the school board for twenty-five years, twenty-three years president of the board. S. T. Noble has been a member of the board for nearly twenty years.

There are two parochial schools in the town of Vernon, St. Bernard's, and the school connected with Trinity German Church. They are both doing excellent work and are a credit to those who have their management and direction in charge.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

The truth and hope of the gospel has been the dominating and all absorbing force in the growth of mankind in all of the higher qualities. Religious life may vary in different communities, but religious institutions are essential to the best progress and true growth of all communities. Religion, like everything else, expands. The difference betweeen early and modern conditions in the religious life of Vernon is no less marked than it is in other Connecticut towns. In the mighty forward sweep of civilization and onward march of progress the religious customs and characteristics of the people undergo many and wonderful changes. No more contrasting picture can be presented than the religious life and institutions of Vernon, when the town was incorporated in 1808, over a century ago, and the religious life and institutions of today, as Vernon enters upon her second century as a political factor in the commonwealth of Connecticut.

The age of Puritanism has gone never to return, but the Puritan character will live as long as time shall last. We may lay aside the creeds, the forms of worship, the social customs of these good people, of strong faith and stronger courage, but we can never lay aside the two fundamental life-principles, faith in God and faith in man. The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man have always been, and ever will be, the great keystones in the arch of every perfect and enduring religious structure. Religious restraint and intolerance have given way to liberty and charitableness, but we should exercise every care and not abuse the power which comes with the larger liberty of these modern days, striving at all times and in all places to obey the laws of God and man, and as spiritual heirs of the Puritans building up a theocracy that will endure throughout the ages. While the unit of life during all ages and in all towns has been the home, the blessed trinity which has held men and women to that which is highest and best, has been the home, church, and school. Vernon is blessed with churches that are progressive, standing everywhere and at all times for the moral and spiritual

welfare of the people, and her religious life has contributed to the beauty and nobility of the community. So much has been accomplished by religion and the church that it would require more than a single chapter to do full justice. A history of each denomination during the modern period of the town's life will give a better insight into the conditions in the religious field, than a general treatment of the subject of religion and religious institutions.

Vernon has today twelve churches, nine Protestant and three Catholic, divided by denominations as follows: Three Congregational, two Methodists, one Baptist, one Episcopal, and two German Lutheran. The Christian Scientists have an organization but no organized church. There is also a Swiss church just over the city line in Ellington, which is attended by several Rockville people of that nationality.

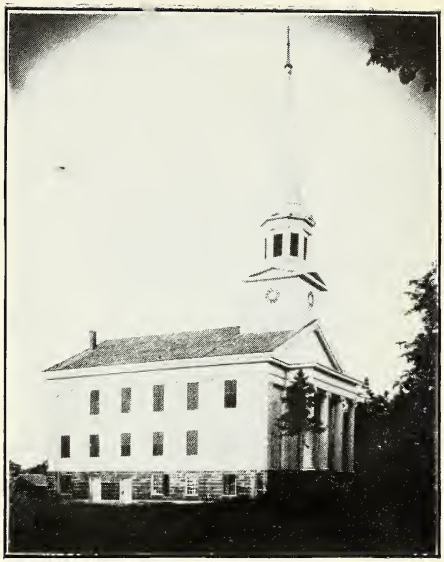
VERNON CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The parish was formed by name of North Bolton in 1760. The church was organized as the Second Church of Christ in Bolton in 1762. When the town was incorporated in 1808, the church and society took the name of the town.

The first house of worship, one-half mile east of the present building, was erected in 1762, present building erected in 1826, thoroughly remodeled in 1851, when the portico and spire were added. The spire was taken down in 1896.

The church has had a great many pastors. The records of the church are rich in honored names, which there is not space to mention here. The fate of so many of the hill town churches, from causes that are inevitable, has fallen upon the Old Mother church, that of a contracted parish, greatly lessened constituency and meager material resources. For a number of the years the pulpit has been supplied by theological students. Albert A. Marquardt, a student at the Hartford Theological Seminary, is acting as pastor of the church at the present time.

ROCKVILLE A QUARTER CENTURY AGO—Looking West from Market Street. (Courtesy Rockville Leader.)



VERNON CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, erected in 1826, remodeled in 1851, when portico and spire were added. Spire taken down 1896. (Courtesy Rockville Leader.)

Park Place and Park Street in 1870. Site of present modern Henry Building, showing First Congregational Church of Rockville.
(Courtesy of Rockville Journal.)

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN ROCKVILLE.

For fifteen years the original settlers of Rockville went to the old church at Vernon. The men usually walked, while the team of the Rock Company carried the women and girls. Weekly prayer meetings were held during this time in the Rock boarding house. The first service on a Sunday was held in the Rock "Lecture Room" on December 2, 1836, conducted by Rev. Diodate Brockway, of Ellington. The First Church of Rockville was organized October 26, 1837, with forty members, thirty-five of them from the old church in Vernon. There was connected with it a Sunday School of one hundred members, and the growth of the church, as of the village was rapid. The house of worship was twice enlarged, and still there was need of more room.

The Second Church was accordingly organized February 22, 1849, with forty-eight members, twenty-nine from the First Church and nineteen from elsewhere. Its house of worship, a New England meeting house of the noblest style, with Ionic portico and a lofty spire that was much admired for its graceful proportions, was built in 1848-9.

These two churches worked side by side for a generation while the village grew to be a city. The years 1850, 1852, 1854, 1858, 1864, 1866-7, 1874, not to mention later dates, are spoken of as times of especial religious interest, when large numbers weer added to the church membership.

The pastors of the First Church were: Rev. Ansel Nash, 1839-1841; Rev. Augustus Pomeroy, 1841-1845; Rev. Horace Winslow, 1845-1852; Rev. John W. Ray, 1853-1855; Rev. Smith B. Goodenow, 1859-1860; Rev. Avery S. Walker, 1861-1864; Rev. Henry S. Kelsey, 1866-1868; Rev. E. B. Bingham, 1871-1878; Rev. J. W. Backus, 1879-1883; Rev. Charles H. Ricketts, 1884-1888.

The pastors of the Second Church were: Rev. Andrew W. Sharpe, 1849-1851; Rev. Charles H. Bullard, 1853-1857; Rev. Charles W. Clapp, 1857-1864; Rev. Asa S. Fiske, 1865--1871; Rev. Henry F. Hyde, 1872-1880; Rev. Samuel B. Forbes, 1881-1888.

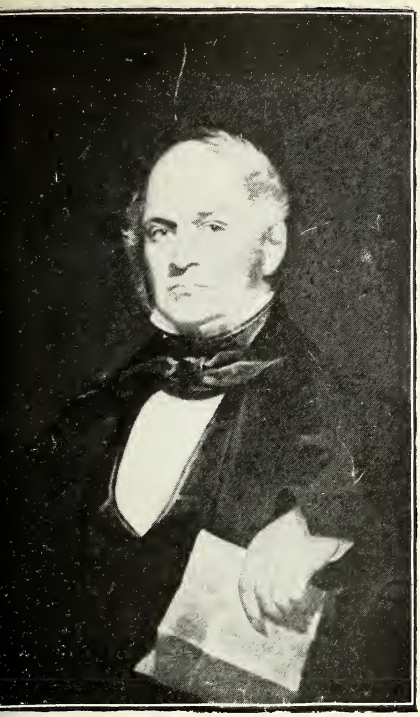
Of these men the most influential were undoubtedly Revs. Horace Winslow and Edward B. Bingham, of the First Church, and Revs. Henry F. Hyde and Samuel B. Forbes, of the Second; and it is a curious co-incidence that the term of service of each of these men was about seven years. Mr. Hyde died in office, and was sincerely mourned by the entire community.

April 3, 1888, the building of the Second Church was destroyed by fire. About the same time the town of Vernon wished to acquire the site of the First Church Building for a Memorial Town Hall. As there were eight churches in the place, the way seemed to be providentially opened for the union of the Congregationalists into one body, and after mature consideration and a thorough canvass, union was decided on.

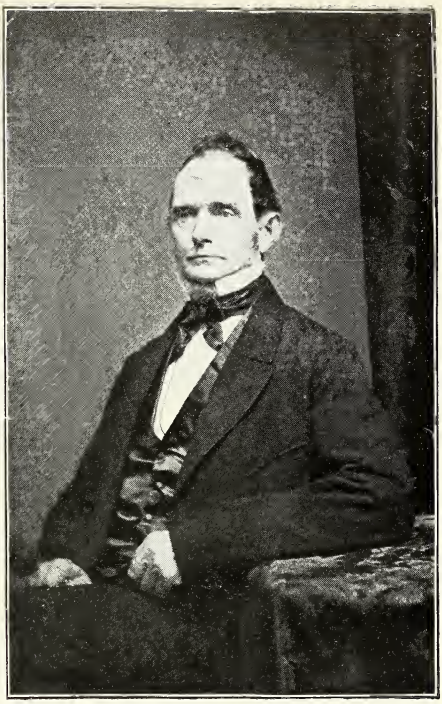
The Union Ecclesiastical Society was formed on June 15, 1888, and into its hands the property of the societies connected with the First and Second Churches was duly conveyed. The Union Church was organized by one hundred and eighty-nine members of the First and two hundred and twenty-two of the Second Church, in August, 1888.

Services were held in the building of the First Church, which, after the sale of the lot on which it stood, was moved to the south side of Main Street across the Rock Canal. Rev. Charles H. Ricketts, the last pastor of the First Church, acted as pastor of the united body until May, 1889. On December 12 of that year, Rev. James Dingwell was installed by council as first pastor of the Union Congregational Church.

After considering other locations, the Ecclesiastical Society voted on July 24, 1888, to build a new church building on the site of the former Second Church. Plans submitted by Warren H. Hayes of Minneapolis were accepted, and on the anniversary of the burning of the Second Church the contract for the erection of the present beautiful edifice was signed. September 5, 1890, the building committee, consisting of J. G. Bailey, George Sykes, Crosley Fitton, George M. Paulk and Dr. E. K. Leonard, presented the finished building to the society. The church was first opened to the public for an organ recital by Prof. W. C. Hammond on the evening of September 17. The

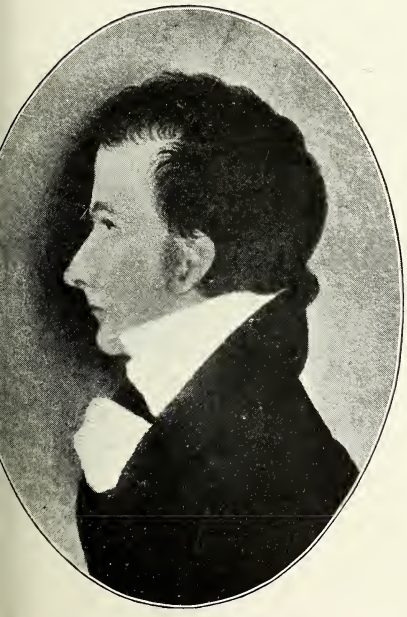


NATHANIEL OLMSTED KELLOGG.

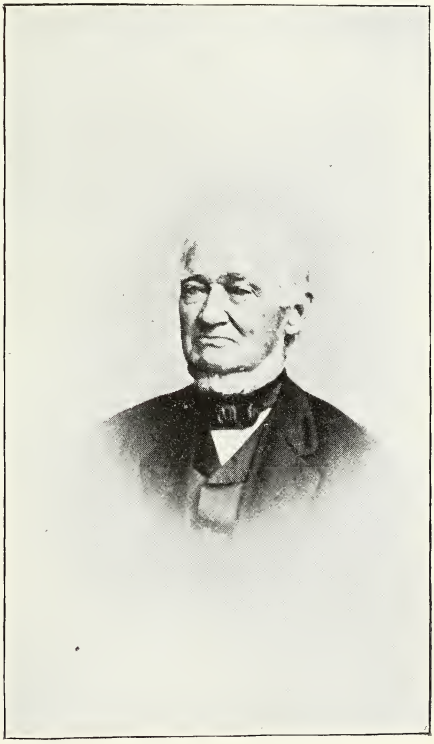


ALLYN KELLOGG.

Grandsons of Reverend Ebenezer Kellogg, first Pastor of Vernon. Prominent in the early days of the first century of Rockville.



EBENEZER KELLOGG.
Grandson of first pastor.



GEORGE KELLOGG.
One of the earliest residents of Vernon.

services of dedication were held the next day. The sermon was by Rev. E. A. Reed, D. D., of Holyoke, Mass.

Wise, earnest, devoted laymen have been the strength of the Congregational churches of Rockville from the first. The names of Hammond, Kellogg, Maxwell, Loomis, Thompson, Prescott, Sykes, Grant, Harwood, and many more, appear again and again in the records. Deacon George Maxwell at his death, April 2, 1891, had been a deacon of the Second and Union Churches for thirty-five years, and Deacon John N. Stickney, served the First and Union Churches in the same office forty-four years.

Work among young people has always been a strong feature. One hundred were gathered into the Sunday School when the First Church was formed in 1837. Since then the schools have been fortunate in their officers and teachers. E. B. Preston is especially remembered as a superintendent who knew every child in a large school by name. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, formed September 4, 1888, was for many years one of the most flourishing in the state. Other organizations, not only of young people, but of men and women, have been efficient tools in the church work.

An event of great importance was the reception in February, 1892, of the legacy of $5,000 left by Mr. Maxwell to found a free reading room in connection with the church. Trustees were appointed to have charge of the fund, to which another $5,000 was added in 1898 by the heirs of Mr. Maxwell, and yet another $5,000 in 1904 by the will of George Sykes. The rooms were furnished and opened to the public in the spring of 1892. The daily attendance has averaged about seventy year after year, proving the great usefulness of this institution.

Since 1897 the church has given the community a chance to hear sacred music of the highest order in a series of special services of song on Sunday evenings. Large portions of Handel's "Messiah" have been given at the Christmas season for years. Haydn's "Creation" was given twice in connection with the centennial celebration in 1908.

When the General Conference of Congregational Churches of

Connecticut was formed, Rockville was one of the first places to entertain the annual meeting, and has now entertained the state body four times, in 1869, 1880, 1893, and 1908.

Mr. Dingwell closed his pastorate in 1895, and the present pastor, Rev. Charles E. McKinley, was installed September 16, 1896.

Under the pastorate of Rev. C. E. McKinley, which has extended over a period of fourteen years, the present Union Church has attained a remarkable growth, and today its membership is 550. It has one of the largest Sunday Schools of any Congregational church in the state. Mr. McKinley is an excellent preacher and a faithful and devoted pastor, who does not neglect a single interest of his parish.

TALCOTTVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Talcottville Congregational Church was organized March 13, 1867, with a membership of seventy-four. (By letter sixty-four, by confession ten.) The church building was erected by H. W. and C. D. Talcott, at a cost of $31,000, and presented by them to the Congregational Church, in Talcottville, "so long as said church shall sustain the preaching of the gospel and other connected means of grace according to the Faith and Order of the Fathers." There have been eight pastors, Rev. George A. Oviatt (1866-1875), Rev. Joseph P. Hawley (1875-1878), Rev. Theodore L. Day (1879-1883), Rev. George H. Pratt (1883-1888), Rev. Jonathan Wadhams (1888-1890), Rev. Foster R. Waite (1890-1903), Rev. David L. Yale (1904-1908), Rev. Francis P. Bacheler (1908). The first deacons were John Winchester (1867-1874), Horace W. Talcott, (1867-1871).

The Sunday School was organized December 2, 1866, with H. W. Talcott as superintendent. The Ladies' Missionary Society was organized September 19, 1866, with Mrs. Daniel Kellogg as president. The Ladies' Mission Band was organized October, 1882, with Miss Alice Dexter as president. The Y. P. S. C. E. was organized September, 1886 with Rev. George H. Pratt as president.

The present officers of the church are: Deacons, Horace G.

Talcott (1882), Morris H. Talcott (1889), clerk, J. G. Talcott; treasurer, M. H. Talcott; superintendent Sunday School, H. G. Talcott; choirister, G. W. Smith; president Ladies' Missionary Society and Mission Band, Mrs. C. D. Talcott; Daughters of the Covenant, Miss Florence Moore; president Y. P. S. C. E., Rev. F. P. Bachelor. Present church membership, one hundred and ninety-six.

Since the burning of the church edifice on October 31, 1908, Talcott Brothers have kindly donated the use of the hall in the upper part of the store building for church purposes.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The first steps looking toward a new church home were taken on February 26, 1866. At this meeting it was voted to build a church and a subscription paper was put in circulation by a committee, consisting of R. S. Lewis, C. White, L. A. Corbin and H. C. Parker. The first service in the vestry of the new church was held on June 16, 1867. It was a love feast. The bell was raised to its place in the tower June 28, 1867. The vestry was inadequate to accommodate the congregations and the audience room of the church was dedicated on Tuesday, November 26, 1867, Bishop Simpson preaching the sermon. Finished and furnished, the church cost $56,000. A little more than a year after dedication, including the debt secured by mortgage, it was found that there were claims against the church, including interest, of about $38,000. At this point Messrs White and Corbin came to the rescue, agreeing to assume all but $10,000 of the debt, if the church would deed back to them the banks and the property in the rear of the church, and make over to them some uncollected subscriptions. The deed was given, the property costing them nearer $25,000 than $10,000. Pastor after pastor made an effort to liquidate the debt, but without success. Rev. J. H. James, who assumed the pastorate of the church in 1885, freed the church of a heavy debt, a notable accomplishment.. The mortgage was burned at a union meeting of the people, in which different ministers participated, on the third Sunday in October, 1887. The occasion marked a jubilee celebration long to be remembered in the annals of local Methodism.

From the time that Messrs. White and Corbin took the front basement rooms of the church, long used as banks, it was the intention of those gentlemen that this property should revert to the trustees of the church. When Cyrus White died this had not been attended to and Lewis A. Corbin bought the banks.

The subject was frequently mentioned by pastors and others, but it was not until the pastorate of Rev. W. J. Yates that it was definitely arranged. Then Mr. Corbin executed deeds which are duly recorded, conveying the banks to the trustees. He reserved the income during his life. Then a portion was reserved for a fund for contingencies, but at last all the income goes to the trustees. Certain annual contributions to benevolent interests are provided for and the balance may be used for the current expenses of the church.

Meanwhile Mr. Corbin had purchased the lecture room of the First Church and removed it to his own lot, back of the church. This is the room, which, by the courtesy of the Congregational Church, was used as a place of worship by the Methodists when the old West Street Church burned. Now George W. Doane joined with Mr. Corbin and these two gentlemen at their own expense fitted up the commodious "Wesleyan Hall," "Ladies' parlor" and church kitchen and placed them on the lot on which stands at the service of the people of the church, a noble act, worthy to be remembered to their honor.

When Rev. W. S. MacIntire came to be the pastor of the church the frescoing on ceiling and wall was badly defaced and the church greatly needed repairs. He soon set about this work and on "Old People's Day," October, 1906, the church was reopened in its present attractive condition.

Under the energetic pastorate of Rev. R. S. Moore, who is now on his second year, the spiritual wants of the people are in good hands and material blessings have come to the church in the way of additional improvements.

The church records show the following as to the pastors:

1834, S. Cushing, E. Whitney, L. Pierce; 1835, no record; 1836, H. Torbush, E. A. Standish, E. Chapin; 1837, no record; 1838, E. Chapin. (A "local preacher" of East Hartford); 1839,

no record; 1840, "Vernon Circuit," B. M. Walker, C. D. Rogers; 1841, L. Leffingwell, L. W. Blood, E. A. Standish; 1842, Lanson B. Clark, W. Emerson; 1842, No record, R. W. Allen presiding elder; 1844-1845, A. F. Park, "local preacher." A lawyer of Norwich; 1846, H. Torbush, J. B. Gould. First Church built, West street; 1847, W. Hurd. Church dedicated May; 1848-1849, Anthony Palmer; 1850, L. W. Blood; 1851-1852, W. S. Simmons; 1853-1854, G. W. Brewster; 1855-1856, W. O. Cady; 1857-1858, G. W. Wooding; 1859, Charles Morse; 1860, C. S. Sanford; 1861-1862, R. Parsons; 1863-1864, John Lovejoy; 1865-1866, Erastus Benton; 1867-1868-'69, J. W. Willett; 1870-1871, E. H. Hatfield; 1872, Shadrach Leader; 1873-'74-'75, Henry H. Martin; 1876-1877, G. W. Miller; 1878-1879, N. G. Axtell; 1880-'81-'82, Richard Povey; 1883, O. H. Fernald; 1884, G. W. Brewster; 1885-'86-'87, J. H. James; 1888-'90, Orange W. Scott; 1891-'94, G. H. Bates; 1895-'99, W. J. Yates; 1900-'01, W. A. Luce; 1902-'05, W. P. Buck; 1906-'08, W. S. MacIntire; 1909, R. S. Moore.

VERNON METHODIST CHURCH.

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church started from small beginnings, as most of the Methodist churches do, from class meetings. This was in the early sixties. The meetings were held mostly in the Dobsonville schoolhouse and the increasing numbers demanded preachers and the society was supplied by students from Wesleyan University at Middletown. One of the men was Rev. W. W. Bowdish, who at present is district superintendent in the New York Evangelist conference. About 1865 the congregation had increased to such numbers that a house of worship became imperative and the church at Bolton was purchased and moved to Vernon, cut in two and lengthened and is the building now used for worship. Somewhat later the building was improved and a belfry added with a fine bell installed, mainly by the generosity of S. S. Talcott, a prosperous manufacturer, who for many years was the motive power of the society.

In 1872 a resident pastor became a necessity and Rev. S. O. Benton was sent to the field. In the meantime, S. S. Talcott and George Miner bought a lot near the church and a parsonage was built. The congregation numbered forty or more and steadily increased under the labors of Rev. Briton and his successor, Rev. D. A. Jordan. Both of these men have risen to distinction in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was served by other ministers later, viz., Ellis, Bentley, Page, C. S. Davis and others. A cabinet organ costing $300, the gift of S. S. Talcott, was placed in the church and the pews upholstered and other improvements made.

In 1886 at the close of Rev. W. A. Taylor's pastorate, the Vernon Church was united with the Wapping charge, which arrangement lasted a year or little more. From this time on until 1892, the church had a temporary supply and then an interval of three years with no pastor and a closed church. Rev. B. C. Phelps gave his services for one year to keep the church open and a Mr. Hilton from Hartford conducted services for a year and some others, whose names do not appear, for brief intervals. The Crusaders succeeded in awakening an interest which resulted in the appointment of Rev. D. W. Adams in 1895 to the charge. Under his aggressive administration an Epworth League was formed with Mrs. Robert Walker as president. A Sunday School was previously organized by G. N. Phelps, who has remained as its superintendent until the present. During Rev. D. W. Adams' pastorate some changes were made in the interior of the church, giving a commodious vestry. A Ladies' Aid Society was organized at this time with Mrs. S. S. Talcott as president, which became of great assistance in the church work.

Rev. D. W. Adams was followed by Rev. F. J. Follansbee during whose term, a lot adjoining the church was purchased and a new parsonage erected, the former one having been sold some years previously. The society thus incurred a debt which at the time was heavy but which the Ladies' Aid Society under the able leadership of Mrs. G. N. Phelps, its president, was largely instrumental in lifting, and on March 31, 1905, amid much rejoicing, the mortgage note was consigned to the flames.

and the society was free from debt. Following Rev. F. J. Follansbee came Revs. James Tregaskis, S. F. Maine, J. F. Robertson and lastly Rev. S. M. Beale, whose wise, ardent and progressive labors guarantee the future prosperity of the Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The history of the Baptist denomination in the vicinity of Vernon begins as far back as 1842, when at the request of several brethren a meeting was held on April 8 at the home of Thomas King in Ellington "to consult upon the propriety of constituting a Baptist church in said town." In the afternoon of that day the church was organized, but this organization disbanded in 1845, but before doing so the membership had grown to thirty-two members. Rev. George Mixter was the first pastor. The service of organization was held in the lower room of the Congregational Church in Ellington. This building was later removed to Rockville and re-erected as the Rockville Opera House. Before disbanding, the church built a small building in Ellington, which is still standing.

In 1849 twenty-eight members of various Baptist churches of Rockville issued a call, looking to the formation of a Baptist Church. The signers of the call were all Rockville residents. On July 17, 1849, fourteen persons met at the home of E. S. Hurlburt and formally organized the Rockville Baptist Church. Rev. D. D. Lyon acted as the first pastor. On April 21, 1850, Rev. Henry R. Knapp became pastor of the church. At the close of the pastorate of Rev. H. R. Knapp, May 1, 1852, the church numbered over eighty members. The church remained pastorless after the resignation of Rev. H. R. Knapp until January, 1854, when a call to the pastorate was extended to Rev. G. W. Gorham, who continued as pastor until about a month and a half before the church disbanded.

The Sunday services of this church were held during the earlier period in Union Hall in the Sears Building on Market Street in the rear of the Exchange Block. This building has since burned down.

In 1849 it was unanimously voted to contract for building a house of worship. According to the vote, there was to be a basement under the house of worship and stores for rent. Land for a building was purchased of the Frank Factory near the factory. The response to a subscription paper warranted the project of building, and work was commenced, and after what was apparently a long and hard struggle, completed. This edifice was that which is now occupied by the German Lutheran Church on West Main Street. It was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Society on February 27, 1855. Regular services were discontinued at this time, but the society continued to hold annual meetings and elect officers year by year until the church began again to hold regular services in 1882.

For twenty-seven years the Baptists of Rockville kept up their organization, while not holding services of a distinctively religious nature. This seems a remarkable fact and proves conclusively the persistent character of this people. In 1882, Rev. L. S. Brown of Tolland commenced holding services. Sunday afternoons in Rockville Hall, which is now the dining room of the Rockville House. Soon the place of holding services was changed to what was called "The Mission Room," now the room occupied by the Journal Publishing Company. The Baptist church was revived in June, 1882. It was a small start, there being but six members to begin with, but additions were made from time to time, the church growing steadily and showing signs of prosperity. Rev. L. S. Brown continued to supply the pulpit until November, 1883. The church was without a settled pastor until January, 1884, when Rev. W. C. Walker began to supply, continuing until May, 1885. The pastorate of Rev. A. S. Brown commenced immediately after the close of the pastorate of Rev. W. C. Walker, and continued until April, 1887. The present house of worship, which was dedicated on March 8, 1887, was started during his pastorate, the site being purchased from the Rock Manufacturing Company on Union Street, where the church now stands.

The pastors of the church following Rev. A. S. Brown were: Rev. E. W. Potter, 1887-1894; Rev. A. P. Wedge, 1895-1900. The present pastor, Rev. George D. Gould, commenced his duties on April 1, 1900. During his nearly eleven years of service, peace and prosperity have attended the church. The church has been refurnished inside and out, until it hardly looks like the same building. During the present pastorate there have been added to the church eighty-three members, fifty-eight of them by baptism, while twenty-five have been lost to the membership by various causes, leaving a net gain to the church of sixty, the present membership being one hundred and sixty-six. The membership has doubled on the average once in eight years since 1882.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Episcopal service held in the town of Vernon was the marriage of Dr. Alfred R. Goodrich, who in later years achieved distinction in the professional and political life of the town, and Miss Charlotte Dobson, daughter of Peter Dobson, founder of the first cotton mill in the town and one of the first in America. The ceremony was performed October 28, 1847, by Rev. Mr. Clero of Broad Brook.

In 1850 a funeral service was held by Rev. Mr. Fitch. Regular Episcopal services were begun by Rev. Enoch H. Huntington in 1855. He was the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Broad Brook. The initial service of the denomination in Rockville was held in the Rockville House on May 7. It is said that over three hundred attended. Rector Huntington ventured to express the hope that a chapel might be built here to accommodate the Episcopalians. To this end he continued to lead the congregation from Broad Brook and subsequently from Manchester. He was assisted and succeeded in the work by his son, Rev. John T. Huntington, at the present time the beloved pastor of St. James' Episcopal Church, Hartford, who gave himself, his time and means to the work, in the winter coming out from Hartford in the cold and snow. Eventually becoming discouraged, Mr. Huntington gave it up as the biggest mistake of his life.

The parish was served by lay readers, young men from Trinity College, Hartford, who afterwards became prominent clergymen in the church, Messrs Buckingham, Alfred Harding, J. H. Freeland, F. D. Buckley and others.

The parish was organized by the convention in June, 1872. Services were held in 1871 and 1872 in the German Lutheran Church on West Main Street, but the time had arrived when they must have a building of their own. Considerable difficulty was encountered in finding a location. Eventually the present site was obtained, then occupied by an unsightly barn. And here the church building stood.

Heavily mortgaged, the parish handicapped with debt, the whole thing gave evidence of a conspicuous failure. But upon the earnest appeal and subscription of Bishop Williams, churchmen came forward and with the assistance of the Missionary Society of the Diocese bought the property and placed the parish upon a working basis. The parish was paid out of debt entirely and the present church edifice was consecrated as that of St. John's on May 30, 1905, Memorial Day, and thereupon entered upon a new and vigorous career.

Rev. Harlow R. Whitlock was the first rector of St. John's Church. The discouragements of the work were so great that Mr. Whitlock resigned, practically abandoning the ministry, from which at his own request he was deposed. Other rectors of the church with their term of service follow: William F. Bielby, 1884-1888; Elijah Roke, 1888-1889; Clarence E. Baal, 1889-1892; Rev. Samuel W. Derby, 1892,1895; Rev. Robert C. Tongue, 1896-1899.

Rev. J. Francis George, the present pastor, succeeded Rev. Robert C. Tongue, commencing his pastorate on October 1, 1899.

Aside from faithful and generous parishioners, citizens of the community have patronized the church, of whom are the names of Judge Dwight Loomis, A. N. Belding, George Talcott, E. N. Foote, L. E. Thompson, Heber Townsend, Cyrus Winchell, E. S. Henry, W. R. Orcutt, H. L. James, L. Bissell, W. B. Foster and George Sykes.

Of the church itself a distinguished citizen has said that "more than anything else it represents the progress of the town." Placed at the outside in a most unattractive location, improvements have gone on year after year upon the church and its environment, until it finds itself in the midst of the most desirable residential portion of Rockville. If we are to judge from the past this church is destined to fill a noble position in the city and in the state, the product of a wealthy and intelligent community.

The number of families connected with St. John's Episcopal Church at the present time is one hundred and seven; baptized persons, three hundred and twenty-seven and communicants, one hundred and fifty-nine.

Under the present rector, who has labored faithfully and zealously, "progress" appears to be the keynote in the spiritual life of the people and the material life of the parish. The call is "Forward and Upward."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

As far as can be ascertained, James McAvenney was the first Catholic to settle in Rockville. He came sixty-seven years ago. In 1848, about fifteen Catholics assembled at the first mass celebrated in Rockville in a house owned by the paper mill company and then occupied by Christopher Carroll and family, was the place where divine services were conducted. Rev. John Brady, of Hartford, was the celebrant of the mass. It may be interesting to those of us of another generation nearly three score years and ten later to know who were some of the attendants of the first mass. The records disclose the name of Christopher Carroll, Patrick Quinn, Edward Gorman, Thomas McDonnell, Dennis O'Donnell, James Conner, Philip Kernan, Matthew Fay, Eugene Kernan, Patrick Duffy, Martin Flood, John Moore and Michael Lawlor.

It was not until the year 1849 that regular visitations were made, and this duty developed on Rev. James Smyth, one of the patriarchs of the diocese. He officiated here at monthly intervals

at the house of Albert Lamb, where Patrick Quinn resided. He said mass also in the Dean house on Mountain Street, where Martin Flood resided.

The "Brick Tavern," famous in the early history of Vernon, when the growth of Catholicism in interest and numbers made larger quarters essential, became a meeting place. Beginning with the year 1851 a large upper room on the west side was used. Mass was said here for two years, when "Skinner" Hall was secured in the Sears Building on Market Street over the Rockville meat market, where mass was said by Father Smyth and others until March 15, 1854. Rev. Peter Egan assumed charge as the first resident pastor. Manchester, Stafford Springs, Broad Brook and Mansfield, which were without any Catholic meeting houses, were dependencies.

Between 1850 and 1860, there was considerable activity in Catholic circles and as the Catholic population was increasing slowly but surely it was felt that a site and building should be secured. Although the financial means of the Catholics were meager and there existed a deep rooted local prejudice against Catholics and Irishmen at this time, once a start had been made for a church home of their own on the part of the Catholics, there was no turning back. Hawley Kellogg, a druggist, who conducted business on what is now known as St. Bernard's Terrace, who was broad and liberal in his views, offered his entire property to the Catholics on terms satisfactory to them, and they promptly accepted the offer, and after removing the store on the site, work was commenced on the new church. Good progress was made and the church was completed. In the meantime a parsonage was secured, a cemetery, consisting of five acres on the Tolland Road, purchased by Father Egan, who was in charge here at the time. Having been instrumental in getting the parish under headway and accomplishing much for the spiritual welfare of the people and the material wants of the parish, Father Egan went to Lee, Mass. on November 12, 1856.

Rev. Bernard Tully succeeded Father Egan, assuming his duties in December, 1856. Under his administration the church was finished and embelished and dedicated by Bishop McFarland. Father Tully's pastorate continued until January, 1863.

Following Father Tully's pastorate, the pastors of St. Bernard's Roman Catholic church were Rev. Hugh O'Reilly, 1863-1868; Rev. Bernard Tully, 1868-1869; Rev. James Quinn, 1869-1872; Rev. Patrick P. Lawlor, 1872-1873; Rev. John J. Furlong, 1873-1895; Rev. John Cooney, 1895-1900. Rev. Luke Fitzsimons assumed the pastorate on Sunday, September 30, 1900, coming from the Immaculate Conception Church in New Hartford.

During Father Tully's pastorate the sanctuary of the church was enlarged, the church beautifully decorated and the main portion of the rectory built.

Father Tully's second pastorate was of very brief duration. He suddenly expired in his carriage on July 20, 1869, while on his way to Ellington. The splendid marble monument, which stands over his grave in front of the church, was erected by Rockville and Manchester people, in testimony of their love and esteem for him.

Rev. John J. Furlong served for a longer period than any pastor in the history of St. Bernard's parish, 1874-1895. Father Furlong's first work was to improve the cemetery. During his pastorate the church was completely renovated, mny notable improvements being made. The renovated church was rededicated on January 20, 1878. In February, 1886, the Johnson site on Park Street was purchased. The house was converted into a convent and a chapel was arranged therein. The Cogswell lot adjacent was soon added to this property. The present lot on which the present handsome school building stands, was secured by Father Furlong. On this lot was the old building which Father Egan had removed to make room for the church. This was remodeled for the "Sisters," who removed thereto from Park Street, May 13, 1895. To Father Furlong belongs the honor of introducing the Sisters of Mercy into Rockville. November 3, 1886 was the date they took up their work here. On May 2, 1887, the basement of the church, which had been fitted up, was opened for school purposes. A new school building, 63x68 feet, commenced by Father Furlong in 1894, was opened September 10, 1895.

During the nearly ten years Rev. Luke Fitzsimons was pastor of St. Bernard's Church there was a wonderful growth and expansion. In many respects it was one of the most remarkable decades in the history of the parish. The years have been marked by material prosperity and progress and spiritual uplift. On Tuesday, August 30, 1904, the people of the parish were bereft of a church home, their frame edifice erected in 1855, enlarged in 1863, moved back and added to in 1873 and improved by the addition of a new steeple and in various other ways, being re-dedicated in 1878, was totally destroyed by fire. The Union Ecclesiastical Society offered its church edifice for a temporary place of worship for the members of St. Bernard's Church and the town authorities put at their disposal the Town Hall, which was accepted. Undaunted and undismayed by the catastrophe that came to the parish, Father Fitzsimons lost no time in getting plans out for a new church home, and in seven months after the fire, work started on the new church. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Sunday, May 28, 1905. It was a grand and imposing ceremony. Bishop Michael Tierney spread the mortar with a silver trowel, forty priests assisted, all the Catholic societies turned out and many citizens, Catholic and Protestant, graced the occasion with their presence. The chapel was dedicated on Sunday, November 26, and this was another memorable occasion in the history of the parish. The greatest epoch in the history of the parish arrived when the church was dedicated on Sunday, September 20, 1908, when the people beholding the new church complete and crowning the ideal site of the old, forgot their grief in joy. Before the vast assemblage the church was dedicated. While Father Fitzsimons was the moving spirit and genius in building up the new church, the loyalty and devotion of his people and the co-operation and noble response on the part of the non-Catholics of the city, made his task a pleasant one.

The church is of granite foundation to the main floor and the main body is of brick. It will seat nine hundred.

When Father Fitzsimons assumed the duties of pastor of St. Bernard's Church, there was a debt of $30,000. The debt has

been removed, a new church, costing $65,000 has been built, the parish owns a large amount of valuable property in the very heart of the city, and there is an indebtedness of but $12,000. When the church first started there were two hundred and forty-seven Irish people in Rockville. Today there are two thousand one hundred souls in St. Bernard's parish and the church has one thousand six hundred communicants.

Rev. M. H. May of Colchester, Conn., succeeded Rev. Luke Fitzsimons as pastor of St. Bernard's Church. He arrived in Rockville on Wednesday, August 3, 1910. On Sunday, August 6, he said two masses at the church and occupied the pulpit at the three masses, where he introduced himself to his parishioners.

Father May has been extremely fortunate in his assistant, Rev. James L. Smith, who came to Rockville in 1904 from the Norwich parish. He co-operates with the "Sisters" in the convent in carrying on the educational work of the boys and girls.

ST. JOSEPH'S POLISH CHURCH.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Polish) is one of the youngest churches in Rockville, dating back to April 28, 1905. Previous to this time the Polish people worshipped at St. Bernard's Church. The steady increase in the Polish population made it necessary to take steps to erect a suitable church home, and the present edifice at the corner of Union and West streets was dedicated on Sunday, October 29, 1905. The distinguished prelate, Bishop Michael Tierney officiated and the ceremony was an impressive one. A feature of the day's exercises was a big parade in which out of town Polish societies took part, there being about 1,200 men in line. The edifice was erected under the supervision of Rev. C. J. Wotypka, the first rector, since deceased. Owing to the generosity and devotion of his people and the cooperation of the citizens of the community, excellent progress was made. To help pay for the church, the members of the parish set aside two days pay each month for the first six months and then one day's pay each month for a year.

The church building, which is of Gothic style of architecture, of frame construction, 40x83 feet in size, has a seating capacity of about eight hundred. It is of modern construction and the appointments are complete in every respect. The church has over eight hundred communicants. The rectors of the church since its organization have been: Revs. C. J. Wotypka, Joseph H. Culkowski, M. Soltysek.

WEST MAIN STREET GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The first divine service was held in 1856. It was served as a mission by different outside pastors until 1864. The congregation was organized by Rev. Otto Hanser of Boston, September 23, 1866, with a membership of ninety-seven. The first local pastor was Rev. C. Graeber, who took charge in November, 1866. The present building was bought in 1867, at that time owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. C. Graeber resigned in August, 1869, after two and one-half years of work. His successor was Rev. Simon, who remained about two years.

Rev. Frey had charge of the work from 1871 to 1875. Rev. N. Soergel came to Rockville early in 1876 and supplied until 1882. He was followed by Rev. C. A. Graepp, who served the congregation from August, 1882 until May, 1888.

In 1884 a lot was purchased on Ward Street and a parsonage erected.

In July, 1888, Rev. G. F. Hartwig, the present pastor, took charge. During the following years a debt of $3,700 was paid off, a pipe organ purchased and various other improvements made when the church building was purchased, a store which remained until 1891, was conducted in the basement. During this year the basement was remodelled and fitted up for a Sunday School room, and other improvements made at a cost of $3,400. In 1906 new church pews were installed, a stone wall and iron fence erected and other repairs made on the church property at a cost of $2,600. In 1907 a fine church bell was donated by Mrs. Julia Paulsen.

The church building and parsonage are in good condition and free from debt. The present membership of the congregation is four hundred and fifty communicant members, and the Sunday-School has about two hundred scholars; Ladies' Aid Society, seventy-two members and the Luther League, one hundred and two members.

TRINITY GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Trinity German Lutheran Church was started in 1866 by Rev. Otto Hanser, sent from Boston. It was refounded May 29, 1882. The first service was held on the 18th of June in that year in the hall of the Rockville Hotel. The first church building was erected June 3, 1883. A parsonage was built in 1895.

The pastors of the church have been: Rev. C. Graeber, 1866-'69; W. A. Frey, 1872-'75; P. A. Soergel, 1875-85; Otto Hanser, 1886-'01; John Heck, 1901-'05.

Rev. Walter Von Schenk assumed the pastorate in 1906.

A parsonage was built in 1895. Among the improvements made were the renovation of the interior of the church, cement sidewalks, organ, organ motor and school hall.

There is a parochial day school connected with the church, with fifty-two pupils and two teachers. The Sunday School has one hundred and eight pupils and seven teachers.

The present membership of the church is five hundred and twenty souls and two hundred and fifty communicant, or voting members.

A Ladies' Aid Society, Young People's Society and choir are connected with the church, which is prosperous in every department at the present time.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS.

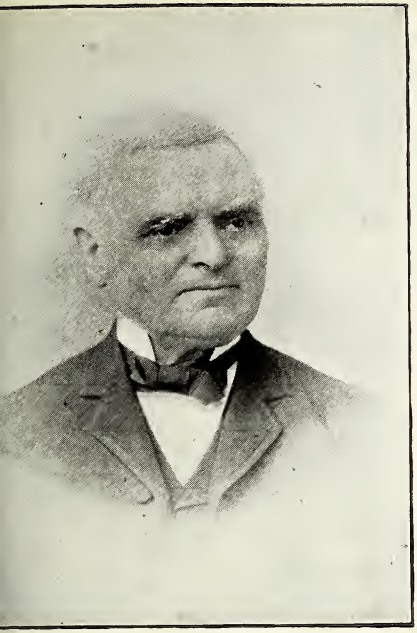
While they have not organized a church, several Rockville people, believing in the Christian Science doctrine, hold meetings every Sunday in Masonic Hall in the Fitch Block. These meetings have been held in various halls for the past two years and previous to this, for about seven months the meetings were held at the home of Mrs. Carlos Doane on Village Street. The mem-

bers have banded together and the officers are: President, A. W. Annis; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Carlos Doane. Miss Ida Martin is the first reader and Mrs. A. W. Annis is the second reader. The attendance each Sunday runs from eighteen to thirty-five.

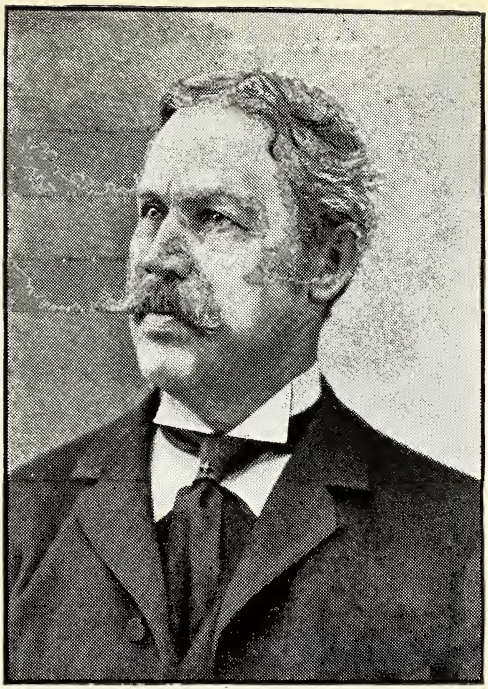
There are few, if any towns with a like population that have a greater number of fraternal organizations than the town of Vernon. Indeed, Vernon is especially remarkable for the strength of the fraternal spirit and organizations. It is probable that all the fraternities together include a goodly percentage of the entire population of the town. Many of the societies have handsome rooms, and the influence of this element in our social and charitable life is incomputable. The oldest strictly fraternal organization in the town is Fayette Lodge of Masons, which was organized in October, 1825 in the William Morgan Tavern in Ellington. It will thus be seen that Masonry in the vicinity of Vernon is nearly as old as the town itself. On June 1, 1857, Fayette Lodge occupied for the first time its new hall in King's Tavern, now the town almshouse. The Lodge was reorganized in that year and Frank Winthrop Perry was made a Master Mason, the first Master Mason ever made in the town of Vernon. There are six living members of Fayette Lodge, who have been Masons over half a century. They are Edward R. Fitch of Burnside, Frank W. Perry of South Norwalk, Henry W. Coye of Cottage City, Mass., E. Stevens Henry, A Park Hammond and Lucius E. Thompson of this city. E. Stevens Henry has been an officer of the lodge for over fifty years. The lodge had furnished one grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Connecticut, Edward E. Fuller.

VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

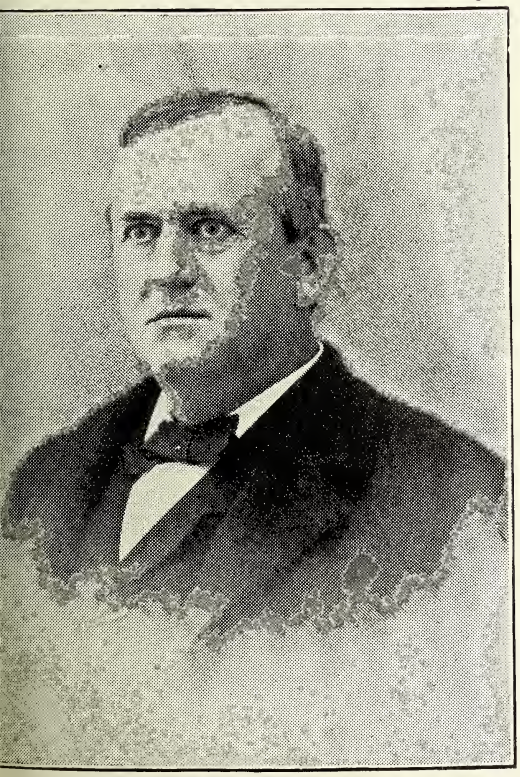
Vernon, for a town its size, has several institutions, some in the embryo stage, but certain in the not far distant future to take their proper place in the life of the community and be-



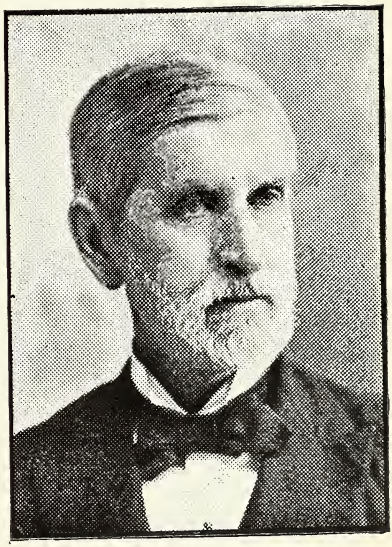
GEORGE MAXWELL.
A potent factor in the development of Rockville.



GEORGE SYKES.
A captain of industry who worked his own way to the topmost round of the ladder. At his death he left a fund of $100,000 for a Manual Training School.



WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT.
Who Gave $50,000 for a City Hospital.



JUDGE DWIGHT LOOMIS.
Christian Statesman — Distinguished jurist—Prominent in National Life.

come a potent influence for good, making for the uplifting and betterment of the people. Perhaps the foremost institution in which the town takes greatest pride is the George Maxwell Memorial Library, presented to the city on June 29, 1904, by the Maxwell family, in honor of their father, and as a tribute of affectionate remembrance to him, who had been a stalwart figure in the religious, social and industrial world, one of earth's true benefactors. The library building is a modern one and is finely located on Union Street a few rods west of the Union Congregational Church, Central Park and the business center and nearly opposite the magnificent Maxwell homestead. It stands high above the street, occupying land that was formerly two building sites, on one of which was the residence occupied for several years by the deceased. A commanding feature of the structure, which is built of marble, is the magnificent double flight of granite steps and the beautiful terraced grounds. Beautiful in exterior and interior, equipped with all modern conveniences, it is indeed an enduring memorial of one who loved Rockville and all her institutions and who was beloved by all. It is a gift which every part of the community shares. The library contains 10,164 carefully selected volumes. The management is vested in the hands of the Rockville Library Association of which Francis T. Maxwell is president; William Maxwell, secretary and J. C. Hammond, Jr., treasurer.

The present librarian is Miss Bessie Beckwith, who has several capable and efficient assistants.

The magnificent generosity of the Sykes family insures a manual training school for Rockville. At the death of George Sykes, which occurred December 21, 1903, Vernon lost a citizen who had been closely identified with her growth for over a third of a century and allied with the city's largest and most successful corporations. He left a fund of $100,000 for a manual training school. Mrs. Elsie Sykes Phelps, wife of Hon. Charles Phelps, the president of the Vernon Centennial Committee, presented a desirable site for the building on Park Street, and since the death of Mr. Sykes, his widow has presented the trustees with $50,000, without condition or restrictions, to be added to

the building fund. The latest gift received by the trustees, is the sum of $25,000 from Mrs. Charles E. Bond of Hartford, daughter of the late Mr. Sykes. This money is to be used by the trustees as they see fit.

A city hospital, made possible by the Prescott family, William H. Prescott, one of Rockville's captains of industry, having contributed $50,000 before his death, and the family having contributed the site, the Gainer property on Prospect Street, will be a reality at no distant day.

The Tolland County Agricultural Society was organized August 22, 1853 at the County House in Tolland, by Jonathan Flynt, who was then treasurer of Tolland county. Ephraim H. Hyde was the first president. The fairs were held at Tolland for a few years and were then transferred to Rockvillle. Mr. Hyde remained at the head of the society for a great many years. When the park in Rockville was purchased, it was decided to name it Hyde Park in his honor, in consideration of his valuable services. The entire amount of the premiums to begin with did not exceed $350. Today they average from $1,200 to $1,300. In 1898 the Tolland County Agricultural Society became a joint stock corporation and the name was changed to the Rockville Fair Association. The late Walter E. Payne was the first president and E. F. Badmington the first secretary. Andrew Kingsbury is president at the present time and Fred J. Cooley is secretary. The annual fair is now recognized as one of the biggest and best in the state.

The Tolland County Temporary Home for Children was opened in November, 1883, at Andover, and Mrs. William T. Smith was the first matron. In 1888, the Edwin Bill property at Vernon Center was purchased and the Home was removed there. Early in 1900 a start was made toward a new building, which was dedicated on December 5, of that year. It stands just at one side of the old one, is an imposing structure of Colonial style of architcture and an ornament to the village. Edwin Hick is superintendent, succeeding E. S. Talbot, who served in that capacity for fifteen years. Mrs. Hick acts as matron.

On November 18, 1876 property for a town farm was purchased. In the early days of the town this property was a famous tavern, known as King's Tavern. In a room in this tavern Fayette Lodge of Masons had its first meeting place in Vernon. The property has been improved from time to time, and today it is recognized as a model town farm. Nelson Palmer was the first superintendent. Gilbert Ahern is the present superintendent.

No organization is doing a more effective work along patriotic lines than Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R. Since its organization it has accomplished a world of good, not the least of which was the inauguration in 1908 of the free evening school, now under town support, where the city's foreign born population can learn English and acquire the fundamental principles that are essential to progress in education, which makes for good citizenship and a law-abiding community. Other organizations which deserve a passing notice are the Research Club, the Cornelia Circle, the Mothers' Club, the Teachers' Club, the W. C. T. U., Salvation Army and Sunshine Society. In the business life of the city no organization has exerted a better influence than the Rockville Business Men's Association, which was organized eight years ago with Edward A. Kuhnly, since deceased, as president and Wilbur B. Forster, also deceased, as secretary. The membership at the present time is about one hundred and the president is Harry C. Smith and William A. Howell is the secretary.

CEMETERIES.

The town of Vernon has four modern cemeteries, three public and St. Bernard's Cemetery. There was no movement for the establishment of a cemetery in Rockville until 1847, when the present grounds were purchased of David Hale, consisting then of seven and one-half acres, and costing $398. No considerable improvement in the grounds was made for twenty years. In 1867 additional grounds were purchased for cemetery purposes. After this the changes were numerous, and the cemetery at the present time is an attractive one, containing many handsome monuments in marble and granite.

The other two comparatively modern cemeteries are Elmwood at Vernon Center, and Mount Hope at Talcottville.

After Grove Hill Cemetery was laid out, the hearse, a one-horse affair, covered, without glass panels, was kept in a house near the gate and belonged to the town. It was the only one in the town. When Albert Dart was selectman and the Metcalfs built their shop on Market Street, he ordered them to take charge of the hearse and furnish a horse and driver. But the good people of Vernon had not been in the habit of paying for the use of a hearse, and most of them gave up the plan and the Metcalfs sold out their business. As near as can be learned McCollum and James, successors to the Metcalfs, were the first to procure a paid hearse.

The first monument in Grove Hill Cemetery was erected for Christopher Burdick.

Of the early cemeteries, the one designated on the town records as the East Cemetery, is the oldest. It is situated about half a mile east of the spot, where Vernon's first meeting house stood, on the road from Rockville to Bolton. It was laid out a great many years before the first church was built, which was in 1762. Probably the site of the church was selected partly because of its proximity to the cemetery. There are many old gravestones there and several graves without any stones. Tradition says the first body buried there was that of a child, who was killed by a fall from a load of goods near the very spot. The goods were being moved by ox-team from Bolton. The child was buried in the northeast corner of the cemetery. There is no place of burial where, with more peculiar fitness, one may quote the pathetic lines:

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

Once the center of the parish, time has played strange pranks. It is today "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," removed from the haunts of men. Few go there, except the curious, and those drawn by a desire to muse and be alone. As we wander through this old graveyard and pause to read the uncouth rhyme, under the rudely carved death's head on the

frail memorial of one of the early pioneers, we are bidden:

"Behold and see as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so must you be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

Many of the fathers of the town, who helped make history in the early days, and who have lived Godly and useful lives, are buried in the ancient burying ground, among them being the honored and saintly Ebenezer Kellogg, Vernon's first pastor, who died September 3, 1817. The inscription on his stone reads:

"Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg died
September 3, 1817 in the 81st year
Of his age, and 55th year
Of his ministry in this place."

"In yonder sacred meeting house he spent his breath,
Now silent; senseless, here he sleeps in death.
Those lips again shall wake and then declare,
A long amen to truths they published there."

Captain Moses Thrall, who was the first to settle on the tract of land in the vicinity of this ancient burying ground in 1703, was one of the pioneers in what is now Vernon Center. He died August 24, 1770, and is buried in Vernon's ancient burying ground. Daniel Thrall was one of the first sextons of the historic old burying ground. His son, Ira Thrall, succeeded him, and he was in turn succeeded by his son, Alfred O. Thrall, who is the present sexton. Their combined period of service extends over one hundred years.

Vernon's other ancient burying ground is designated as the Southwest Cemetery. It is located below Dobsonville.

St. Bernard's Catholic Cemetery was started about 1855. It has increased in area by the purchase of additional land, and numerous improvements have been made, until today it is a credit to the town and to St. Bernard's parish.

ROCKVILLE AS A CITY.

For nearly fifty years after the incorporation of the town of Vernon, the south part of the town, designated as Vernon, was the "hub." Rockville was hardly a spoke in the wheel. Gradually Rockville became the "hub" and Vernon was hardly a spoke in the wheel.

As far back as 1861, when A. C. Crosby represented Vernon in the General Assembly, there was talk of a change of government, many citizens expressing a desire for a new form. A few were bold enough to think the opportune moment had arrived for the adoption of a borough charter, and Mr. Crosby introduced a bill for such a charter. He plainly discerned the handwriting on the wall and dropped the matter. For twenty years or more Vernon continued to go along under the town system, sentiment finally crystalizing for a change, it being everywhere acknowledged that the town was too big and important for a suit of borough clothes. Those who had given careful thought and attention to the subject were firmly convinced that a suit of city clothes would fit very nicely and be the proper thing, and, accordingly, in November, 1888, an informal meeting was held at the office of Town Clerk Gelon W. West for the purpose of considering the advisability of a city charter. There was a good attendance. Opposition developed, coming principally from the manufacturers, and the first effort ended without any action being taken.

The sentiment for a city charter among the business men continued to grow, and those who advocated a change felt success was bound to come eventually. At the legislative session of 1889, William B. Sprague of Andover, who was then a member of the senate, introduced a bill, providing for a city charter for Rockville. At the hearing, which was slimly attended, E. S. Henry presented the matter before the committee on cities and boroughs. The charter, which was patterned after the Danbury charter, provided that the matter be submitted to the people. The people in the south part of the town justly felt that Rockville was an expensive proposition for them, and Rockville proper felt that the time had arrived for extensive public improvements—

improvements it was impossible to get under the old order of things. The need was felt for a paid police force to control the hoodlum element, better lighting facilities and increased fire protection and the establishment of a modern sewer system, also the establishment of building lines. These were some of the many arguments that appealed with irresistible force for a change in the system of government. With the lower part of the town lined up against paying Rockville's bills and Rockville expanding and reaching out for more costly things, it is no wonder the vote for a city charter when submitted to the people was passed. For some time after the charter was adopted there was talk of abandoning it, as the tax rate took a decided upward jump, but it was nothing more than talk. A fact worth noting in connection with the securing of the city charter is that it came at a minimum of expense.

Under the city charter Samuel Fitch became the first mayor, and following him came William V. McNerney and E. S. Henry, all of whom served for two years each. E. L. Heath and William H. Loomis served four years each. George Forster holds the record for length of service, having served three terms of two years each, and he was re-elected in December, 1909, for a fourth term. Since the organization of the city government Rockville has had but six mayors. All of the citizens who have occupied the city's chief executive office are living at the present time with the exception of Messrs. Fitch and Loomis.

With the acceptance of a city charter Rockville did away with the justice system of trying case, as the new system of government provided for a city court, giving it much wider jurisdiction than the ordinary police courts, including the town within its jurisdiction. The first judge of the city court was Gelon W. West and the present officials are: Judge, John E. Fisk; associate judge, John E. Fahey; prosecuting attorney, Thomas F. Noone; assistant prosecuting attorney, D. J. McCarthy; clerk, Frederick Forster; probation officer, T. F. Garvan.

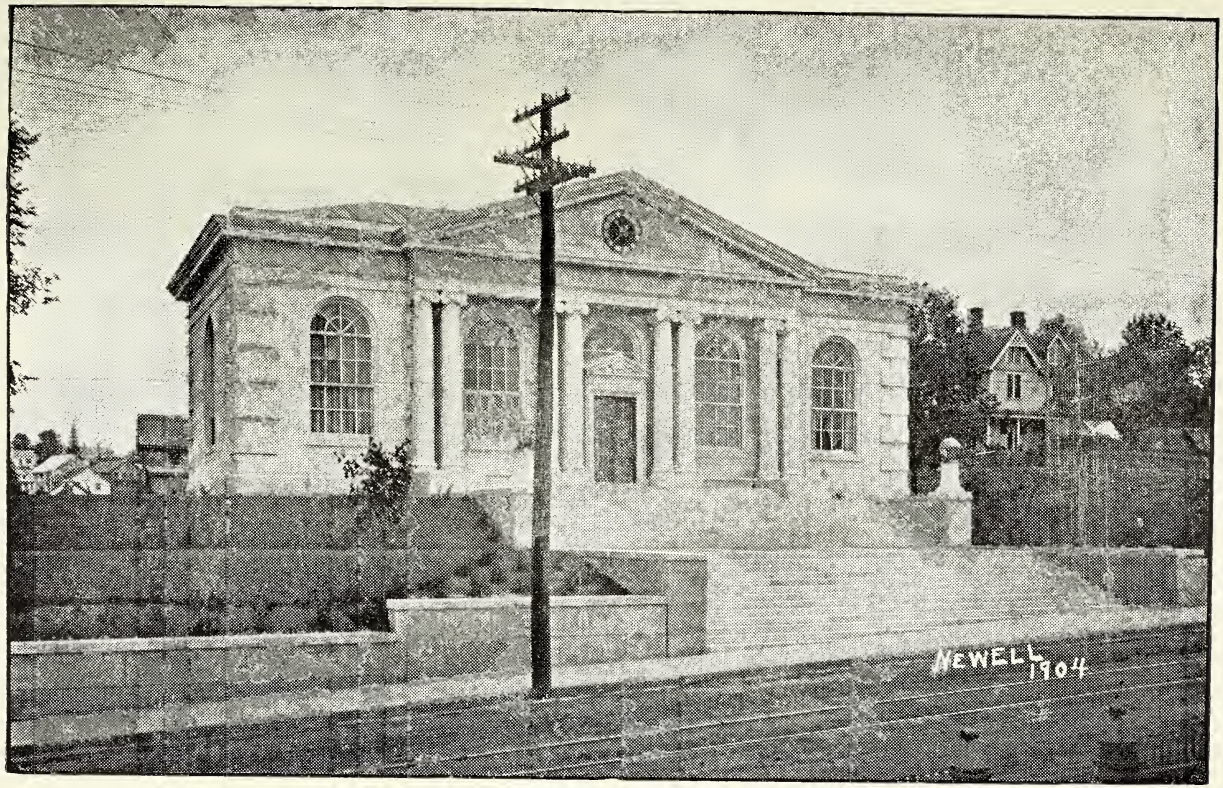
The city charter provides for a mayor and a Court of Common Council, consisting of two boards. At the present time there are four wards, each ward having one alderman and two council-

men. They serve without compensation. The charter originally made no provision for paying the mayor, but an amendment was passed in 1905 allowing the mayor $300 per year. There have been a few other amendments making slight increases in the salaries of the court officials.

The county court was established in Tolland County in 1786. The first presiding judge was Samuel Gilbert of Hebron. Before 1819 the county court consisted of one chief judge and four justices of the quorum. After 1819, it consisted of one chief judge and two associate judges. From 1838 there was but one judge. Sylvester Gilbert was the first state's attorney and Ephraim Grant was the first clerk. On July 4, 1855, the county court was abolished. Sessions of the superior court are now held in Tolland county, where civil and criminal cases are tried, the court meeting for the purpose in September, December, April and June. Numerous short calendar sessions are held during the year. John H. Brockaway was the first state's attorney for Tolland County appointed by the judges of the superior and supreme courts. Others following him were Dwight Marcy, Benezet H. Bill and Joel H. Reed.

Charles Phelps is the present state's attorney of the county; Joseph Bishop was the first clerk, and L. T. Tingier is clerk of the court at the present time.

The story of the old days has no more entertaining anecdotes than those of the first fire fighters. The first fire engine used in Vernon has passed beyond recollection. The second one was Hockanum No. 1, a button engine. This was housed for a time where the present Rock Mill dyehouse stands, at that time owned by the Leeds Mill. There was no organized company and the machine did not receive proper care. The engine had two narrow escapes from destruction by fire, the first coming at the time of the Frank Mill fire September 20, 1851, and the second coming when the Leeds Mill was burned in 1854. It was abandoned in disgust. Following the Leeds Mill fire, there was an insistent demand for better fire protection. The hat was passed around in the various mills, contributions were asked for and about $1,500 was raised, two fire companies were organized and a new engine



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was bought. It was known as the "Fire King." This old hand engine is inseparably associated with the early history of Rockville. Not even an entire chapter can give the reader a complete idea of the fire fighting days "befo' th' wa'." Older residents now among us recall them. They were days that will live long in memory—different from the fire fighting days of this modern age, and, when contrasted with these days, bringing vividly before us the wonderful changes time has wrought in fire fighting methods. Electric wires were unheard of then. It was lung power and the man who could "holler" the loudest was the best fellow. This would start the mill bells going and the noise by those combined flesh and brass alarms was something to strike terror to every inhabitant. Did anyone sleep through these noises? Well, hardly; and almost everybody not sick in bed was out to the fire, regardless of wind or weather. There were no prosecutions for "ringing in" false alarms then, for no false alarms were given, taking a strict view of the matter. What matter if a few packing boxes or tar barrels did get ablaze in some mysterious manner? There were no tramps about in those days to lay the cause to. And it was the people who saw these fires and imagined some house on fire who gave the alarm, and with good intentions. Nobody was to blame. Besides, there was no expense when the department was called out only occasionally wounded feelings. The remuneration the fire laddies received for yanking the old hand engine over the rough streets and up and down the steep hills was the feeling that they had done their duty. The engine burned no coal and there was no fire police to pay.

Of the "false alarms" of long ago, it is only necessary to speak of one. It was the king of them all, however. There are some here in our midst today who remember it, and there are some here, too, who dare insinuate that there are those who could tell, by practical experience, the ins and outs of that false alarm. At that time there was no common council to pay a detective for looking up criminals. Indeed, there was no ordinance relative to the matter. A lesson may have been learned from that incident, however, as it may be proper to assume that one or more

of those "alarm ringers" may have seen service in the City Council and in framing the present ordinance.

It was not long after old "Fire King" had been purchased. The members of the fire department then, were the first men of the village and they were proud of belonging to the department. It numbered on its roster the Hammonds, the Winchells, the Kelloggs, and all the leading citizens of the place. There was great rivalry between the two companies. At that time the Saxony Mill Pond was quite large. One very stormy night, in January, 1858, with the snow piled two feet on a level, the old-fashioned alarm "rung out" on the snowy air. Fire King boys were ever ready for a contest. They ran, tugged, pulled and puffed away for a weary mile—the longest mile they had ever been up against in all their experience, and lo, and behold! what did they find? A huge pile of tar barrels and boxes were blazing on the further corner of the pond.

One or two of the recognized leaders in the affairs of the town, who were looked upon as pillars in the community, held high their heads and offered a reward for the detection of the conspirators, the offenders against the sacredness of Rockville's fire system. A wise-headed man, however, put his hand upon the benevolent champion of law and order and suggested: "I wouldn't do it, Captain, it might possibly hit too near home."

The incorporators of the Fire King Company, which was organized in 1854 in Butler Hall, the present editorial room of the *Leader,* were: William R. Orcutt, Edwin P. Allen, A. C. Crosby, Thomas Spence and Wells Symonds. Mr. Orcutt, who was the first foreman of the company, the "firemen's friend," selected and purchased the engine of James Smith of Brooklyn, N. Y. in the spring of 1855. It was at that time considered a marvel of mechanism. The engine was housed in the basement of the B. H. Bill residence, which is now doing duty as a hotel in Ellington under the name of the "Ellington Inn." In this house, which at that time stood on Park Street, the company had two rooms, one fitted up for a parlor. Under the articles of incorporation the company was allowed to own property to the amount of $2,500 and to have a membership of sixty, and for years

the company had its full quota. The engine gave a fine account of itself at the various firemen's musters about the country and a feature of the early days in Vernon were the contests between the Hockanum and Fire King boys.

Foreman of the Fire King Company following Mr. Orcutt, were A. C. Crosby, N. H. Thompson, E. P. Allen, R. H. Dawson, Charles E. Harris, J. W. Burton, George Millard, John Leach, Nicholas Wendhiser, O. C. West and James Fitzgerald, who was the last foreman before the reorganization of the company.

The Hockanum Fire Company was organized in 1855 with Carlos McKinney as first foreman. The other foremen up to the time of its reorganization were Joseph Selden, A. Park Hammond, Joseph Schofield, Carlos Tracy, William C. Avery, R. G. Holt, William H. Jones, John Pitney, John Chapman and Edward Hurlbut.

The Hockanum Engine Company had a hall, where reunions were held. Joseph Thompson was the first secretary of the company and E. S. Henry the first treasurer. The foreman of hose was S. A. Groves.

The Hockanum and Fire King engines were all the town had for a period of thirty-five years. In 1889 there was agitation for a better fire department and Crosley Fitton, George Sykes and E. S. Henry were appointed a committee to purchase a steamer. After a lengthy investigation they unanimously agreed upon a rotary pump engine which was put in commission in the fall of 1889. Later a second one was purchased. When the old engines went out of commission the Hockanum button engine was sold for junk in exchange for fire supplies. "Fire King" was sold in 1891 to the Pawtuxet, R. I., firemen, who have proved themselves worthy successors of the old Fire King Company, making a great record with the machine.

Previous to the securing of a city charter, the town of Vernon had several incorporated fire districts. The fire chiefs from the earlier days up to the present time include: William R. Orcutt, A. C. Crosby, N. H. Thompson, Albert Dart, C. E. Harris, Lewis Hunt, Joshua Wood, Nicholas Wendhiser, James Breen, Edward Marshman, Gilbert Holt, John Wagner and John W. Hefferon.

The officers of the department are: Charles J. Scholl, chief; E. Serbser, assistant chief; A. T. Dickinson, superintendent of alarms; T. F. O'Loughlin, department physician;

There are two steamer companies, Fitton Steamer Company No. 2, and Fitch Steamer company, No. 3, a hose company, known as Hockanum Hose company No. 1, and a hook and ladder company, known as Snipsic Hook and Ladder Company. All the companies have their own houses and the paid firemen on the rolls of the various companies, including officers and men, number fifty.

The police force is one of Rockville's most modern institutions. Indeed, it was one of the strong arguments for the adoption of a city charter. In the early days of the town, there was no police department. Constables, grand jurors and justices of the peace preserved order, issued complaints and tried cases. For many years in the early days of the town, George Talcott and E. S. Henry acted as trial justices, and they did their duty fearlessly and well, according to all accounts. Mr. Henry had an office upstairs in his building and Mr. Talcott had an office fitted up in his house. Prior to that time a trial justice would try a law-breaker or violator in any convenient place the lawyer would assign. Phineas Talcott, father of George Talcott, did most of the trial justice work in the very early days of the town and he attained fame and distinction.

Not until the city government was instituted was there a "cop" in Rockville to molest or make afraid. Previous to this the police work was done by constables, who, while they wore a badge and had plenty of authority, had no blue uniform with brass buttons. It was under the administration of Mayor Samuel Fitch, now deceased, that regular policemen and supernumeraries were appointed. The first regulars were William H. Cady, Fred Einsiedel, D. W. Delaney and Jewett Collum. The first supernumeraries were A. E. Barnes, Frederick, Harding, Frank Davis and Fred Bauchman. William H. Cady was the first captain of police, serving from 1890 until June 30, 1907, a period of seventeen years. He dropped dead on that day at 12:20 o'clock as he was crossing Central Park on his way to his

office in the police headquarters in the Memorial Building. Apoplexy was the cause of his death. His career was characterized by faithfulness and fidelity.

By virtue of his office, the mayor is chief of police. The rules and regulations of the department are vested in the hands of the police committee of the City Council, appointed by the mayor.

Rockville's police force at the present time consists of a captain, three regular policemen and five supernumeraries. E. J. Kane, who received his appointment by Mayor Forster on July 30, 1907, as successor to the late Captain William H. Cady, was appointed a supernumerary by Mayor E. S. Henry in 1894 and promoted to be a regular patrolman on December 4, 1900 by the late Mayor William H. Loomis. He was acting captain during the month of July, following the death of Captain Cady. His career as the active head of the police force of the city of Rockville, which was a notably successful one, was ended by death on Friday, July 29, 1910. He died at the Hartford Hospital following an operation. The entire city mourned the loss of a faithful officer. His funeral, which was held at St. Bernard's Church on Monday, August 1, was very largely attended, business being generally suspended for the occasion, citizens in all the walks of life uniting to pay their respects to his memory.

On Tuesday, September 20, 1910, Mayor Forster announced the appointment of Leopold Krause as captain to succeed the late Captain E. J. Kane. Captain Krause was made a supernumerary in 1904 and promoted to be a regular patrolman in 1907.

The regular policemen at the present time are A. E. Barnes, Joseph Forster, Jr., and S. J. Tobin. Owing to continued ill health, Patrolman Forster has done very little duty, the various supernumeraries taking turns filling his place.

The present supernumeraries of the police department of the city of Rockville are Alfred Say, John Donovan, Richard Shea, William Clift and Moritz Kemnitzer. The city is free from vice and there are few disturbances. Few cities in the country, with

the cosmopolitan population Rockville has, are better policed or have less disorder. Conditions are almost ideal and speak volumes for the people who comprise the city's population. Rockville is a thoroughly law-abiding community.

Rockville is set, not on a single hill, nor on seven hills, like ancient Rome, but upon a series of hills. Its situation is as picturesque as many of the historic Old World villages. Located in the highlands of Tolland County, it overlooks the famous Connecticut Valley and presents a panorama of some of the most charming landscape scenery to be found in New England. From the top of Fox Hill, which is six hundred and ninety-three feet above the sea level, a magnificent view of the city and surrounding country for miles around can be obtained. The upper part of North Park Street also furnishes a delightful prospect. With a good field glass Mount Tom, Mount Holyoke, the State Capitol at Hartford, and numerous other towns and villages can be seen There are beautiful drives and good roads about the city. During the past decade many sewers have been put in and considerable curbing has been done. The septic system of sewage disposal is one of the best in the country. The city is 16.7 miles from Hartford, 4.4 miles from Vernon, 109.4 miles from Boston and 125 miles from New York.

The daily wants of Rockville are supplied by one hundred stores, shops and markets. The people of a number of smaller villages, including Vernon, Vernon Center, Talcottville, Ellington, Tolland, Bolton, Quarryville, Coventry, Broad Brook and Windsorville, all of which are within a radius of a few miles, do considerable trading in Rockville. There are numerous handsome and substantial business blocks in the city, among the number, the Prescott Block on Park Street, the Henry Building, at the corner of Park Place and Park Street, Rockville National Bank Building, Exchange Block, Doane Block, Citizens' Block, all in the center of the city, the Fitch Block on Union Street and the Orcutt property on East Main Street and Market Street, and the Turn Hall property on Village Street. There is one first class hotel, "The Rockville," and several smaller hotels and two

VIEW OF CENTER OF CITY, showing Central Park, Park Place and East Main Street.

opera houses, or theaters. A feature that appeals to every stranger, the tripled terraced streets, adds much to the beauty in the center of the city. Located on Park Place, opposite Central Park, is Rockville's Memorial Building, erected by the town in 1889, in memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. It is a structure of character and dignity. It contains a spacious public hall, capable of seating one thousand persons, also the rooms of Burpee Post, G. A. R., the town and city offices, superior court and bar library, probate office for the Ellington District, which includes the towns of Vernon and Ellington, and is presided over by Judge John E. Fahey, and police headquarters and police court room. For a city its size there are few, if any, that have so many costly and magnificent residences. A very large percentage of the people own their homes, which speaks well for people and community. The telephone and telegraph facilities are first class. The assessed valuation of the property in the town is $6,093,393, an express business of $30,000 per annum is done and the freight business in a year amounts to $200,000.

The geographical position of Rockville is such as to render impossible the allotment of much space for parks, gardens, or even a desirable location of the public streets. The city is by no means destitute of public or private adornments of this kind. There are three parks. Talcott Park, the largest in the city, the gift of Phineas Talcott, was donated by him to the town in the early fifties, and Central Park was donated by adjacent land owners and laid out in its present shape in the early seventies. This is in the very heart of the city on the main thoroughfare. Although small in area, owing to the arrangement of the streets, it presents a remarkably pretty picture and attracts the attention of all strangers.

Nearly four score and ten years ago, even almost before the Rockville of today proper had its birth, there was enacted at the east end of the town a drama the real end of which was hardly then completed. General Lafayette, the friend and former protector of an embryo nation on a tour through this country, honored Rockville by his presence, stopping for a few hours at

the old King Tavern, now the town almshouse. On Thursday, June 12, 1902, Lafayette Park and monument were dedicated in memory of General Lafayette. The memorial is the result of hard and persistent work of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R. of Rockville. It consists of a large, native boulder with appropriate inscription on a bronze plate. The boulder is located on a small plot of land, which has been made into a park at the intersection of Grove, East and South Streets, Hyde Avenue and Coventry Road.

GROWTH OF THE TOWN.

The growth of the town has been slow and substantial, rather than showy and meteoric. The entire population was less than a score of families in 1822, six of whom were Grants. In 1823 there were five families in the Rock District. In 1840 there were six hundred inhabitants in the chain of little houses that clustered about the mills. Up to the year 1841, so far as can be learned, the people of Rockville were accustomed to getting their mail at Vernon Center, which was the "Hub," being the only voting place in the town and the center of business in general. At this time Rockville was just beginning to put on its village clothes. It had no hotels, it had no steam roads and no trolley cars. The polling place for the town was in the conference room of the Congregational Church at Vernon Center, which was built in 1826. Everyone went there to vote until 1856, when town and electors' meetings began to be held in alternate years at Rockville and Vernon Center. In 1865 all such meetings were transferred to Rockville. The population of the town of Vernon in 1810, two years after it was incorporated, was 827; in 1820, 966; in 1830, 1,164; in 1840, 1,435; in 1850, 2,900; in 1860, 3,838; in 1870, 5,446; in 1880, 6,915; in 1890, 8,808; in 1900, 8,483; in 1910, 9,087. The figures of the thirteenth census give Rockville city a population of 7,977. Nearly all nationalities are represented.

Lewis T. Skinner has the honor of being the oldest male native of Vernon living. He was born January 23, 1823, and is eighty-eight years old. The house he was born in stood in the vicinity of the old meeting house at Vernon Center. He

was personally acquainted with twenty-five of the one hundred and nine freemen of the town where it was incorporated in 1808. He resided in the town for thirty-five years. He now lives on the edge of East Windsor about a quarter of a mile from the Vernon town line. Up to within the past few months he was remarkably spry and active, getting outdoors every day and doing his regular farm work.

Mrs. Harriett K. Maxwell is the oldest female native of Vernon living. She was born May 2, 1823. She has lived in the town all her life and is a wonderfully preserved woman and unusually active for one her years, with keen mental perception and enjoying excellent health. She is the widow of George Maxwell, one of the pioneers of the town.

William Butler, who died December 18, 1910 had the distinction of having been in business for a longer period than any man in the town—three score years. Among the business men now living, who were in business previous to the outbreak of the Civil War are the following: G. A. Groves, of Bradford, Pa., Joseph Selden of Norfolk, Henry W. Coye of Cottage City, Hudson Kellogg of Chicago; E. S. Henry, H. B. Murlless, L. E. Thompson, Francis B. Skinner, O. C. West, P. R. Gorman, Hugh Kernan, A. Park Hammond, Frank Grant, George Talcott, Edgar Keeney, William P. Robertson, Charles A. Ladd, A. O. Thrall, H. L. James, Henry Burke, J. C. Hammond, Jr. and Dr. John B. Lewis, of Hartford.

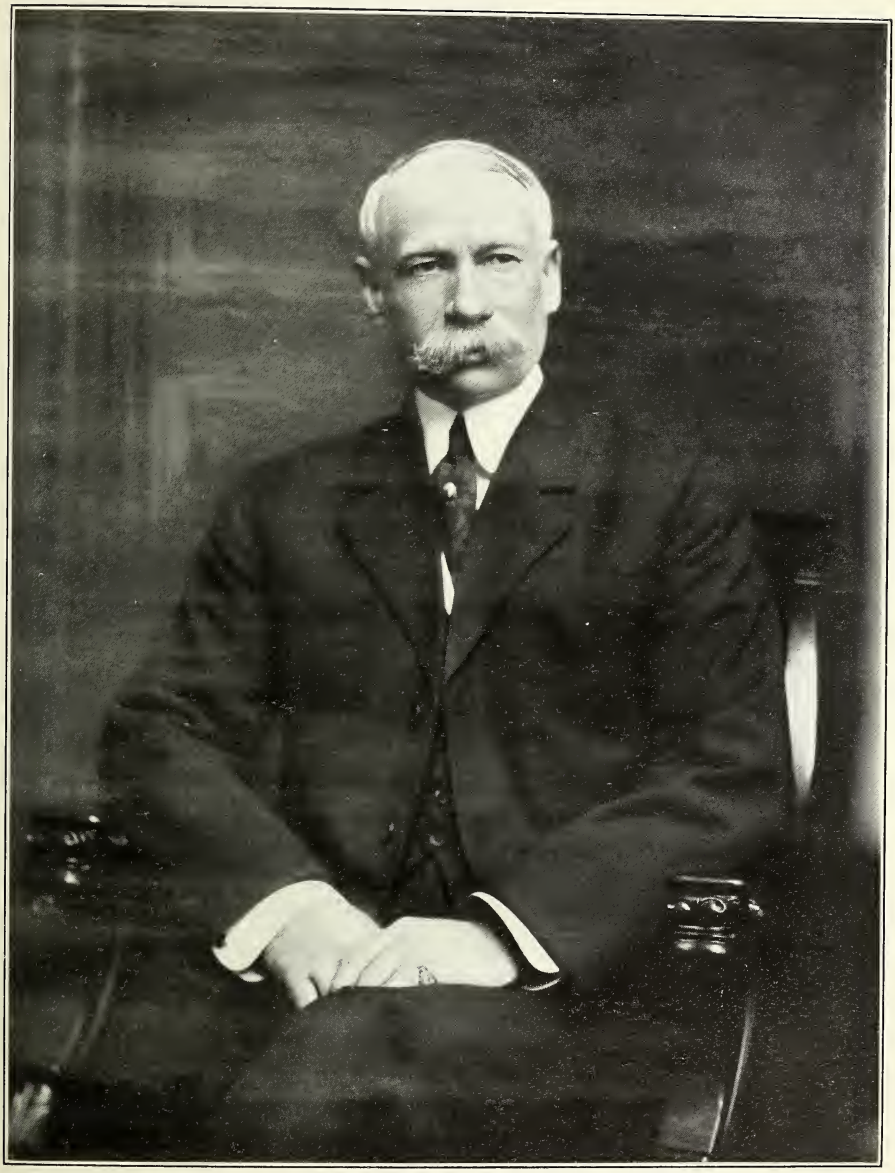
IN CONCLUSION.

Vernon (Rockville) has indeed reason to be proud of her record at the end of her first century. A wonderful change has taken place in the quiet little hamlet of a hundred years ago. Then there were seven hundred souls, mostly Yankee farmers. Today Vernon is nine thousand strong, with a reputation in manufacturing that extends far and wide, reaching the high water mark of excellence, being first in the states in the manufacture of the finest worsted and woolen goods silk fish-lines and spool sewing silks, the home of the Hockanum worsteds, Belding silks, Kingfisher silk fish-lines and the parent mill of the United States Envelope Company. The city operates nine hundred

looms, thirty-five thousand spindles and five hundred braiders, Thirty-four hundred hands are employed with a weekly payroll of approximately $35,000, and a yearly output of one million five hundred thousand yards of cloth. Surely Rockville lives up to her name, the "Loom City," a city in which its looms of industry are building honest riches; a city whose hills loom into the regions of pure air and invigorating health, crowned by good old New England homes in which abide industry and integrity; a city whose achievements in all the pursuits of life and whose contributions to the state and the nation stand high in the estimation of the American brotherhood of municipalities. May we continue to press forward, doing each duty as it presents itself, placing our confidence "in the God of our fathers, from out whose hand the centuries fall like grains of sand." What will be the lot of those who will be here one hundred years hence, to recall the origin and history of Vernon, is beyond our conception. Our hope is that it will be as peaceful, as prosperous, and as contented as our own.

PART II.

CENTENNIAL EXERCISES.



CHARLES PHELPS,
President of General Committee, Vernon Centennial Celebration.

RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING CELEBRATION.

The following resolutions authorizing the centennial celebration by vote of the town were passed at a special town meeting held on Friday evening, November 29, 1907, in the Town Hall:

Resolved—That the legal voters of the town of Vernon in town meeting assembled, do hereby declare themselves in favor of an "Old Home Week" celebration, to be held during some week in the year 1908, which will appropriately mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the town of Vernon, and that a committee consisting of the board of selectmen of the town, the town treasurer, the mayor of the city of Rockville, the president of the Rockville Business Men's Association and Hon. Francis T. Maxwell, representing the manufacturing interests of the town, be and they hereby are appointed a committee with power to select fifteen other residents of the town, representing its business and professional interests who, together shall form a committee of twenty-two, and who shall have power to arrange for, direct and carry out all plans for such celebration on such dates as they shall select and which shall be considered most appropriate from every standpoint; said committee shall have power to appoint any and all additional committees and sub-committees in their opinion necessary for the celebration.

Resolved—That a sum not to exceed $2,000 be appropriated from the town treasury to be used for the expenses incurred by the "Old Home Week" celebration during the centennial year of the town, and that the town treasurer be, and he hereby is authorized to honor any and all orders from the treasurer of the general committee for such amounts as the committee shall need from time to time, not to exceed in the aggregate the amount appropriated by the town.

Resolved—That the city of Rockville be asked to do what it can legally do to co-operate with the town through the mayor and Common Council in making the celebration a success.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Charles Phelps, *President.*
Thomas F. Noone, *Vice-President.*
Joseph C. Hammond, Jr., *Secretary.*
Fred Woodhall, *Assistant Secretary.*
Parley B. Leonard, *Treasurer.*

Francis B. Skinner,
Paul Brache,
Francis T. Maxwell,
Francis A. Randall,
George P. Wendheiser,
Augustin B. Parker,
C. Denison Talcott,
Henry H. Willes,
John H. Zimmermann,
George Forster,
David A. Sykes,
Francis J. Regan,
John W. Hefferon,
Charles N. McLean,
Harry C. Smith,
Moritz Kemnitzer,
Charles Backofen.

INCEPTION AND ORGANIZATION OF CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT.

Before any definite steps had been taken to celebrate the centennial of Vernon's incorporation as a political factor in the commonwealth of Connecticut, the citizens of the town had their attention called to the subject in an editorial which appeared in the *Rockville Leader* on Friday, October 11, 1907, entitled, "Let a Jubilee Mark Vernon's One Hundred Years of Existence as a Town Next Year." In the same issue an interesting historical article, reprinted from the Vernon town records, volume No. 1, appeared. From time to time there were frequent references in the public prints and communications from and interviews with prominent citizens during the latter part of 1907 and the forepart of 1908.

The first decisive step toward bringing about a big one-hundredth birthday party was taken by the Rockville Business Men's Association on Friday evening, October 25, 1907, when resolutions favoring the celebration, were unanimously adopted.

At an adjourned meeting of the general centennial committee in the Council Chamber on Friday evening, December 27, 1907,

at 8 o'clock, with seventeen out of the twenty-two members in attendance, organization was perfected by the election of the following officers: President, Charles Phelps; vice-president, Thomas F. Noone; secretary, Joseph C. Hammond, Jr.; assistant secretary, Fred Woodhall; treasurer, Parley B. Leonard. Each one received a unanimous vote.

Realizing the magnitude of the project and feeling that haste would make waste, the general committee in charge of the Vernon centennial celebration took its time and gave careful consideration to every phase of the subject. It was no easy task to determine the character and scope of the celebration and to fix dates that would prove satisfactory from every standpoint. Before deciding this question the general committee took special pains to get in touch with public sentiment in so far as possible and to find out just how the citizens of the town felt. Through interviews with citizens in all the walks of life, which appeared in the *Leader,* some idea of what would prove satisfactory dates was obtained.

Before definitely fixing the dates for the celebration, the general committee met in the Council Chamber on Friday evening, January 17, 1908, at which time the sub-committees were announced as follows:

Finance—Francis T. Maxwell, C. Denison Talcott, John W. Hefferon, Francis A. Randall, John H. Zimmermann.

Public Exercises—Thomas F. Noone, David A. Sykes, George P. Wendheiser, John W. Hefferon, Moritz Kemnitzer.

Invitations and Reception — Parley B. Leonard, George Forster, Augustin B. Parker.

Advertising, Publicity and Printing—Francis A. Randall, Harry C. Smith, Charles Backofen, George P. Wendheiser.

Decorations and Illuminations—Fred Woodhall, J. C. Hammond, Jr. and John H. Zimmermann.

Transportation—Paul Brache, H. H. Willes, F. B. Skinner, Francis J. Regan.

Historical Addresses, Events and Relics—Joseph C. Hammond, Jr., Francis T. Maxwell, Augustin B. Parker.

Public Safety—Francis J. Regan, Charles N. McLean, Henry H. Willes, George Forster.

Sports—Fred Woodhall, George Forster, Francis B. Skinner.

Licenses and Privileges—David A. Sykes, Francis A. Randall, George P. Wendheiser.

Executive Board—Charles Phelps, Thomas F. Noone, Joseph C. Hammond, Jr., Fred Woodhall, and Parley B. Leonard.

Each sub-committee elected a chairman and secretary.

It was not until Friday evening, March 13, 1908, that dates for the centennial celebration were fixed. At a largely attended and enthusiastic meeting of the general committee, it was the sense of all that the question of dates could not be delayed longer. A friendly discussion took place and ideas were asked for and given. Nearly all the members of the committee present favored the month of June, owing to the fine weather conditions that usually prevail at that time. It was unanimously voted to hold the celebration from June 28 to July 4, inclusive. Having determined the character and dates of the centennial, the sub-committees lost no time in getting down to business. The members were selected with great care, and with the idea of getting those adapted to the work devolving upon them, and willing to bend every effort and put forth all the energy they possessed to make the event a notable and successful one. Meeting after meeting was held and with scarcely an exception the members of the various sub-committees put their whole hearts and souls into their work, carrying out, in a manner that elicited the heartiest commendation, the trust imposed in them by the people of Vernon, and by their untiring activity, undaunted courage and splendid enthusiasm, thoroughly stirring and arousing the cordial support and hearty co-operation of the people.

OPENING OF CELEBRATION; DECORATIONS AND ILLUMINATIONS.

At last! After months of preparation, of hard work, of encouragement and obstacles, of enthusiasm and misgivings, those who had labored saw the fruition of their efforts, and the town of Vernon entered upon its grand centennial celebration.

Any one-hundredth birthday of a person or of a place is a notable event, and that of our town must live long in the memories of those who shared therein, and have permanent interest for such as shall make Vernon their future home.

Naturally, the story of this historical event centers and circles in and about the city of Rockville. Here began, and here was consummated the desire to mark the growth and progress of Vernon by a series of spectacles and exercises which should leave a lasting record in the minds of the townspeople, and make a worthy subject for preservation in type.

Doubtless the memories still freshest with those who can look back upon the events of that week in June, 1908, are the recollections of the decorations which transformed our streets and open spaces into a stage-setting of more than theatrical splendor. Private houses, public buildings, business places, all contributed a lavish share to the total effect of beauty and carnival-like gaiety. Never before had Rockville's natural scenic advantages been so utilized and enhanced by the tasteful touch of Art.

If the daylight effects were inspiring, those of evening and night were thrilling. Myriads of many-colored lights, outlining buildings, festooning streets and parks, made up a veritable "blaze of glory." Especially worthy of mention were the brilliant effects seen about Central Park. Here were erected Ionian columns, their white gracefulness crowned with gilt; and festooned from pillar to pillar, shone thousands of electric bulbs. A pretty effect was obtained about the fountain in Park Place by twining the four lamp-posts with laurel.

Memorial Hall, as was fitting, was made a chief feature in the scheme of decoration, over the main entrance shining the word "Centennial," flanked on each side by the figures "1808" and "1908," respectively, the seal of the state being also outlined in bulbs of red, white, and blue.

First and foremost in the sentiments expressed by the decorations was that of "Welcome." This heart-stirring word was of frequent appearance by day and night, and sounded the keynote of the whole week's festivities.

Many were they who responded to the home-call, and found that "welcome" was indeed the common salutation to all home comers. Indeed, to this day, we think and speak of that time as "Old Home Week."

On the Sunday of June 28th, special services in all of the churches marked the preliminary approach of the real celebration. Pastors of all denominations united in presenting to their people some thoughts of special appropriateness to the occasion. Music, too, was a large factor in putting the minds of the people in tune with all the harmony and delight manifested within and without. Without in any way slighting the value and enjoyment of other musical performances, it seems worthy of special remembrance that the centennial service of the Union Church was the occasion of presenting Haydn's magnificent oratorio, "The Creation." It was indeed a fine contribution to the progress of Vernon in a musical sense.

Perhaps the honor of inaugurating the celebration proper remains with the Gesang and Declamation Club. Just before midnight of Saturday night, this association assembled in Central Park and sang "Forward the Light," and "Village Dear."

Thus commenced that season of many delightful happenings which were crowded into the next few days.

COMMEMORATIVE EXERCISES AT VERNON CENTER.

"Back to Vernon Center!" That might well have been the cry which stirred the people of Vernon town on Monday, June 29, 1908. Such, at all events, was what took place. From all points, towards the old Mother Church, the historic Congregational Church of Vernon Center—traveled crowds of people interested in the literary exercises of the day. For here was to be heard related that long train of events which had found their culmination in this one-hundredth anniversary. Within the walls of this old church gathered descendants of those sturdy and God-fearing men and women, who, by their faith and their works, laid the foundations of our present-day society, both church and community.

Ex-Representative Henry H. Willes, master of ceremonies, conducted the exercises. Mr. Willes briefly welcomed those present, thanked the centennial committee for doing the old village the honor of having the exercises on that historic spot, and assured everyone present of his and the townspeople's appreciation.

Following the invocation by Rev. C. E. McKinley of the Union Congregational Church of Rockville, there was an address of welcome by Parley B. Leonard, first selectman of the town of Vernon.

Mr. Leonard spoke as follows:

Citizens of Vernon and Invited Guests:

We are here today to celebrate the one-hundredth birthday of the town of Vernon, and as this spot was the center of the town for many years, it is very fitting and appropriate that these exercises should take place as planned. I do not propose to tell you what happened one hundred years ago, or the many changes that have taken place during the time, as we have with us today able speakers who will address you along these lines.

Your committee in charge has arranged a very attractive program for the entire week. Yesterday, religious services were held in all the churches, and it was an event long to be remembered. There will be attractions in Rockville day and night during the week, and every day will be a big day. All roads will lead to Rockville, and the gates of the city will be wide open. All are welcome; there is no division line, as to you and your ancestors is due the credit for the growth and prosperity of our beautiful town.

Come and be with us as much of the time as possible, for this is our home, and we want to keep the record we have already obtained of having as good a home as anyone. Your presence will help to make the week enjoyable, and it will go down into history as one of the most notable events that ever took place in Vernon.

In behalf of the committee, I thank you for the interest and enthusiasm you have shown here today. We not only welcome you, but urge you to continue with us the entire week.

Following Mr. Leonard's address, the act of the general assembly creating the town of Vernon was read by Town Clerk Francis B. Skinner. The following is a true copy of the record:

"Upon the Petition of Oliver King and Saul Alvord, of Bolton, in the County of Tolland, agents for said town of Bolton, in their own names, and in the names and behalf of the rest of the inhabitants of said town of Bolton, shewing to this Assembly that said town is about eleven miles in length from North to South, and from three to five miles in width from East to West, and is divided into two ecclesiastical societies, and that from the situation and circumstances of the inhabitants of said town, the same ought to be divided into two towns by the society lines; and that all questions respecting the debts, poor, bridges, and all matters, which might arise in consequence of a division of said town, have been amicably settled and adjusted,—Praying for an Act of Assembly to divide said town as aforesaid and to allow each town one representative only,—as by Petition on file dated the 3d day of May, A. D. 1808.

"This Petition was brought to the General Assembly holden at Hartford in May last, and thence by legal continuance, to this Assembly, with an order to advertise notice of the pendency of the same, which order has been complied with and no opposition being made against the Prayer of said Petition and the facts stated in the same being proved,—

"Resolved, By this Assembly, that the inhabitants living within the limits of the society of North Bolton, in said town of Bolton, be and they thereby are incorporated into and made a town by the name of Vernon; and that they and their successors, inhabitants within said limits, are, and shall forever remain a town and body politic with the rights, privileges and immunities to other towns belonging, excepting that they shall elect only one representative to the General Assembly and the lines and limits of said society shall be the lines and limits of said town of Vernon.—

"And it is further resolved, that said town of Vernon shall hold their first town meeting at the meeting house in said Vernon on the third Monday of November next, at two o'clock in the

afternoon, to choose their town officers for the year ensuing,— and said meeting shall be warned by posting a notification to that effect on the sign-post in said Vernon ten days before said third Monday of November, which notification shall be signed by Oliver King, Esquire, who shall be the Moderator of said meeting; and in case the said King shall fail to perform the duty hereby assigned to him, the same may be performed by any other justice of the peace in any town adjoining said town of Vernon.—

"And it is further resolved, that said town of Bolton shall hereafter elect no more than one representative to a session of the General Assembly.

"A true copy of Record, examined by

"Samuel Wyllys,
"Secretary."

Vocal selections by the school children, under the direction of Prof. T. William Sturgeon, were a pleasing feature of the exercises, preceding the reading of the historical essay prepared by C. Denison Talcott; reminiscences by Captain C. W. Burpee of Hartford; commemorative poem by Professor Thomas D. Goodell of New Haven, and commemorative address by Hon. Charles Phelps. Each of these notable contributions will be found printed in full.

Just before the close of the exercises at the church, Rev. C. E. McKinley, pastor of the Union Congregational Church, Rockville, arose and said that he desired to make a motion, and that was, that the congregation, before it leaves, show its appreciation of the old church at Vernon Center and the village, by subscribing to a fund to rebuild the church steeple. The motion did not want for seconders. Pastor McKinley gave an impetus to the movement by making a very generous contribution himself. Ex-Representative H. H. Willes, master of ceremonies, made a few remarks, saying how pleasing such a suggestion as Mr. McKinley had made would be to the people. He announced that he would give $100 toward the object himself. Rev. C. E. McKinley temporarily assumed charge and called for subscriptions. The sum of $260.00 was secured from among those present. After

the exercises Mr. Willes went among the people and succeeded in getting additional contributions, which brought the total amount up to $800.00. At the present time only a few hundred dollars more are necessary to raise the sum of $2,500.00, the amount necessary to restore the spire.

The literary exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. E. Payson Hammond of Hartford. Before pronouncing the benediction he made a few appropriate remarks, referring to the many years he had lived in Vernon and of the many times he had preached in the pulpit of the Vernon Center Congregational Church, of the numerous prayer meetings he had attended and the great interest and enjoyment he had taken in them all.

After the literary exercises in the church were over, there was a social gathering on the beautifully kept lawn with selections by Ulivieri's Band of Florence, Italy. Refreshments were also served.

HISTORICAL ESSAY BY C. DENISON TALCOTT.

Following is the historical essay, which was written for the occasion by C. Denison Talcott of Talcottville, and read by him:

You have come today into this house of worship to hear recounted the glories of our beloved Vernon. This building itself, in which we are assembled, teems with the hallowed memories of the fathers that are gone. For those who have reached a ripe old age, it will be impossible for me to lend a coloring to events which can be satisfactory or compare with living experience. I only hope that as the more important triumphs are passed in review, you will picture them yourselves, anew, in your minds, and out of this reveries supply those details which must otherwise be lacking. For those in middle life who have come from distant lands and made their homes within the boundaries of this town, I shall endeavor to dwell upon those early struggles, by reason of which it has been possible to receive so many, and having received them into our strength

and fellowship, to mould a noble body politic—our precious possession today. For us, younger voters, there can be from a reflection upon the hundred years that have passed but one effect—an abiding inspiration.

Eighteen hundred and eight is the year towards which our minds are turning today. On the second Thursday of October, 1808, by an act of the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, a section of the town of Bolton was set off and incorporated into the town of Vernon. Possibly many of you have wished that this town had not been set off from another, but had entered the county along with the other towns, in 1785, the time when the county of Tolland was set apart as one of the principal divisions of the state. Contrary to this idea, I believe that the creation of Vernon by a special act of the Legislature reflects the highest possible credit upon those who constituted her citizens. All districts required a separation originally, and the fact that the townspeople of North Bolton were so aggressive and resourceful as to be recognized by the state government at that early time, accounts in no small measure for the leadership in the county which Vernon enjoy so pre-eminently today.

The early settlers, previous to 1808, were attracted by the power of the two streams now familiar to us all as the Hockanum and the Tankarooson. To follow these waters through an undisturbed wildness of a thousand years was no mean task. In fact, land companies, acting as proprietors, were formed by leading citizens of the Connecticut Valley, for the purpose of developing and creating townships in just such a wilderness as was Tolland County at that time. The towns of Bolton, Tolland and Union were opened and established by companies of this sort. How was it with Vernon? To Samuel Grant of Windsor, we give honor for that undaunted spirit which made him the clear possessor of the land upon which the city of Rockville is built today. Mr. Grant was the owner of between five hundred and six hundred acres of land in North Bolton,

but being a non-resident and having no particular interest in the plans of the proprietors of that township, he was induced to swap off his original farm for the rugged lands now so luxuriant with wealth. This transaction was due solely to the courage and vision of a fearless pioneer. April 29, 1726, Mr. Grant took possession and erected the first dwelling house near the corner of Union and West streets.

In those primitive times the great and most natural needs soon started the saw and grist mill. Nearly, if not the first, dam across the free waters of the Hockanum, was built by the Payne family and was located on the present Minterburn privilege. From 1730 on the Grants and Paynes made use of the abundant power, produced the necessary lumber, and took care of the grinding of the crops.

The question naturally comes to us. "Did these stalwart explorers never meet the Indian?" The historian is of the opinion that this section was used as a hunting and fishing ground, but was probably never a regular abode of the red man. In 1675 by the will of the old Sachem Joshua, son of Uncas, the northern hunting grounds were transferred to the white men of the Saybrook plantation. This was the final trumpet, and accomplished for Connecticut, at least, the "Last of the Mohicans." An extract from this old Colonial record reads as follows: "I give and bequeath all that tract of land lying from the mountains in sight of Hartford, northward to the pond called Shenaps." Shenaps is a confusion of Schenipset, our Snipsic, just as Mohican and Mohegan are applied to the Indians of the Hudson and of Connecticut, although one race. Not only by this reference to Lake Snipsic from the will of an old Indian chief, but by arrow heads and other relics, we know that the red men at least encamped temporarily, during their summer excursions, in this territory of Vernon. From 1675, moreover, we are likewise sure that their influence and activity ceased. It is perfectly safe to say, therefore, in answer to the query—did the early settler never meet the Indian?—that by 1725, the date of the arrival of Samuel

Grant, there were scarcely more traces of the red man to be found than there are today.

The rude, one-story cabin, the primitive mill, the rough, hard clearing, enveloped by nature, irresistible, impassable, silent, yet slowly but surely vanquished by the sinewy arm of the man of faith, this is the scene from 1725 to the close of the eighteenth century.

What shall we say of the primal virtues of our fathers? What was the moulding force, the sustainer of faith and hope? On November 24, 1762, Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg accepted the call of the church in North Bolton, to settle in the work of the Christian ministry. As the North Bolton Society occupied the same territory as our town of Vernon, we are right in speaking of Mr. Kellogg as the first pastor of the First Church of Christ in Vernon. This pastorate was alike unique for its extreme length as well as for its far-reaching and abiding effect. For fifty-five years Mr. Kellogg labored without interruption in the ministry of this one church. During this long period not only did many of the early members themselves become preachers, but, through the spirit of migration which sent far and wide fully half of the population of the town, the benignity of this first pastor was shed throughout every northern state. How better can we speak of this remarkable character, simple, yet so sublime, than by a few of his own words on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination: "Time in its nature is fleeting. It bears all the living along with it. As to myself, the time of my departure is near at hand. And in view of the prospect of that solemn day, I am supported with a believing hope that I trust in my all-sufficient Savior, and that I have not labored altogether in vain among you." This benign and peace-loving nature was the source of the faith and hope of the fathers. Of the Puritan mind like their pastor, our ancestors reflected every Puritan tradition. The idea, foremost in the minds of all, was the call to the service of religion. They were remarkably united and content, and next to their anxiety to know the right, and do it, was

a like fervency and loyalty toward the government. In conclusion the theory of their lives is clear—not how much they might be able to get out of the society of their fellows, but rather how best they could give of themselves to the well-being of all.

In 1789 North Bolton was enlarged more than a third by the annexation of a section of the town of East Windsor. This section had long been a part of the North Bolton Ecclesiastical Society, but had not been formally incorporated as a part of the township. From this union of territory was derived, virtually, the boundaries of our town of Vernon.

We come now to the formative period of our manufactures, the development of which has drawn so large from the best of our life blood, and has given us in return so great a dividend of honor and respect.

The first machinery for carding and spinning was built by John Warburton. Mr. Warburton came from England in 1794, and shortly after located on the privilege now held by Talcott Brothers. Here, after much preparation, were manufactured the first stocking yarns and thread. The historian makes mention in particular of the liberal and unique hospitality of Mr. Warburton. On the highway a hogshead of Jamaica rum was kept on tap in an open shed, free to all. Your historian feels safe in saying in general, that whatever rum comes into Talcottville today does not come from Jamaica. Near the present iron bridge there still remain the two brick houses built by Mr. Warburton. In 1809 the Warburton property was bought by Alexander McLean, Lebbeus B. Tinker, Irad Fuller and Colonel Francis McLean. Under Alexander McLean's leadership the property now became known as McLean's wool-carding plant. In one part of this plant Peter Dobson made his first preparations for the spinning of cotton. Together with Chester King and James Chapman, he bought the privilege now occupied by the Ravine Mills Company. By the spring of 1811 a mill was completed and two mules of one hundred and

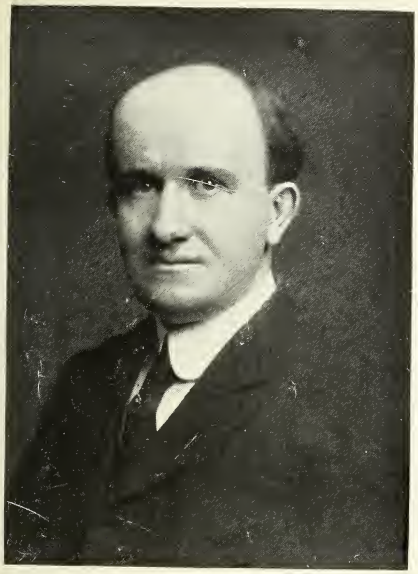
ninety-two spindles each were in operation. Mr. Dobson, as the first to assemble the yarns and develop the art of weaving, may rightly be called our first manufacturer. He was not only a natural mathematician, but a practical draughtsman as well. He both made his designs and constructed his machinery—a rare combination of genius. Think how laborious were those first efforts! Much of the raw stock was carded at McLean's, then spun by Dobson in his own mill, afterwards put out by him to housewives for weaving, and finally sold to peddlers, owing to opposition to all goods of American make.

How now do we connect these first attempts of Dobson in southern Vernon with the beginning of manufacturing in Rockville? Up to 1811 Dobson's yarns had been used especially to meet the primal needs of the home—shirtings, sheetings, ginghams, tablecloths. All these fabrics were woven on cumbersome looms with the simplest possible weave. In this year, 1811, Delano Abbott, a farmer living not far from Vernon Center, consulted Peter Dobson with regard to a sample of woolen cloth which had particularly attracted him. Mr. Abbott made up his mind to manufacture this cloth. He persuaded Mr. Dobson to build the necessary machinery, and in 1812, in a building close to his house, produced the first piece of satinet. The cloth was carried to Simeon Cooley's to be fulled and finished. This clothing works was located near the old Payne privilege on the site of a traditional iron works—clearly a considerable distance from Mr. Abbott's homestead. To the vision of Delano Abbott and to his faith to act upon what he saw, we are indebted for the beginning in Vernon of the regular manufacture of woolens. Two years later, in 1814, encouraged by the success of Mr. Abbott, a nephew of his, Ebenezer Nash, built a small mill on the old Hockanum Site. This effort of Mr. Nash was the start of manufacture in Rockville.

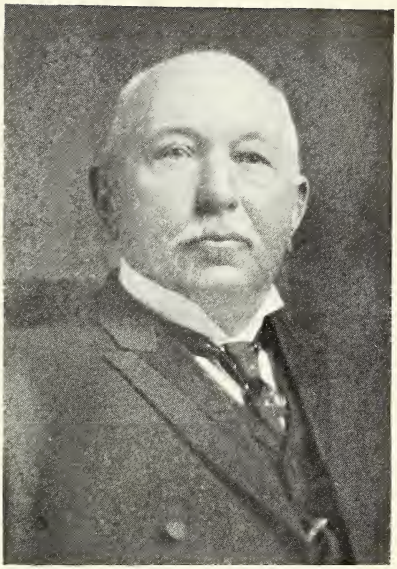
For some years Colonel Francis McLean had fostered many and varied enterprises. He was a man of great mental vigor

and the possessor of an indomitable will. In his youth there was evident this same intensity of character. Work, heavy and constant on his father's farm, developed a physique of great power. Referring to his military service, the Colonel remarks: "At 18 years old I became a soldier, then was chosen corporal, then a sergeant, orderly sergeant, ensign, lieutenant, captain, major, and at last colonel." He adds: "I went up too fast from one office to another for my good." This was the caliber of a leading spirit—generous, high-minded, and firm in principle. Such nobility became the bulwark of the early institutions of our town. In 1821 Colonel McLean, George and Allen Kellogg and Ralph Talcott organized for the regular manufacture of satinets. They erected a building 80x30 and three stories high, on the present Rock Site. This structure loomed up so mightily and was actually so much larger than anything previously attempted, that to the inhabitants it appeared indeed a positive prodigy. This was a real factory, in fact, the first that might properly be called by that name. It was called the Rock, because of the many great rocks thereabout, and the name of Rockville followed naturally from the name of this first factory. We have mentioned George Kellogg and Allen Kellogg as two of the proprietors of this mill. Another brother, Nathaniel O. Kellogg, a few years before, in 1817, bought the Warburton privilege in southern Vernon which McLean had operated as a wool-carding plant. Here Mr. Kellogg added spinning and weaving equipment for the manufacture of the same cloth—satinet. Hence the early development of this new industry was almost simultaneous at both extremities of the town.

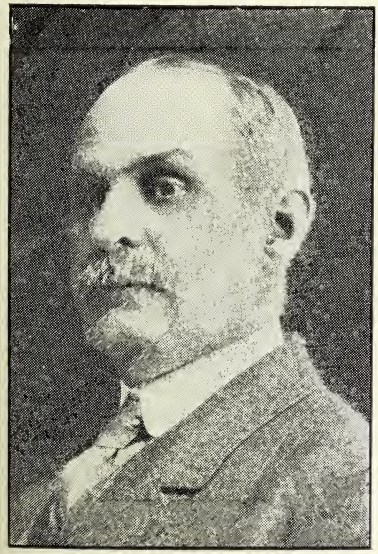
In 1821, when the first Rock Mill was completed, the scattered population was hardly fifty persons all told. At least a third of these were Grants, descendants of the pioneer, and from them Colonel McLean purchased the land necessary for the new mill. The surrounding country was in reality the forest primeval. In 1823 there were only two dwellings in the vicinity of the Rock Mill, and these necessarily



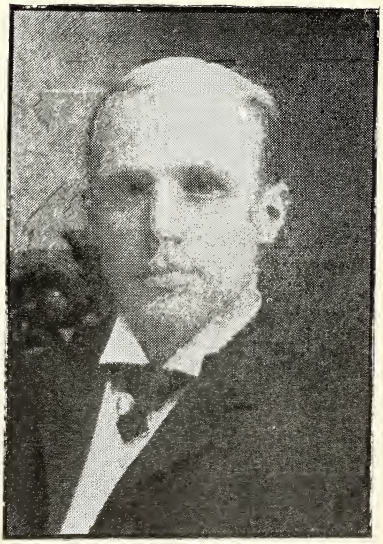
THOMAS F. NOONE,
Vice-President Vernon Centennial Committee and Chairman of Committee on Public Exercises.



J. C. HAMMOND, JR.
Secretary, Member Committee on Decorations and Member of Committee on Historical Addresses, Events and Relics.



PARLEY B. LEONARD,
Treasurer General Committee, Member of Committee on Reception and Invitations.



FRED WOODHALL,
Assistant Secretary of General Committee, Member of Committees on Decorations and Sports.

served for owners and workers alike. All at that early time felt not only the need of keeping shoulder to shoulder, but I believe, possessed a spirit of affection, a real brotherhood, which might well be a lesson for us today, in the complexity of our modern life.

Up to 1826 the only changes worthy of note were within the mill itself. The most significant improvement was the introduction of power looms executed from the designs of Lewis Beach and William T. Cogswell, later the author of "The History of Rockville." The process of spinning likewise was simplified by the adoption of the spinning jack. These mechanical improvements had a revolutionary effect both on the general business of satinets and the rapid increase of the inhabitants. The actual number of families was thirteen. Two hundred yards in a twelve-hour day, this was the new record for the Rock Mill in 1827. The population likewise increased a third. A new house for Mr. Kellogg, and a reorganization of the mill company, with a much larger capital, under the name of the Rock Manufacturing Company, these were the signs of advancement.

Another event, signalling the growing wealth and ambition of the community, was the building by the church in Vernon of a new meeting house. This new house of worship was dedicated on April 4, 1827, and is the present edifice in which we are gathered. Regularly on the Sabbath the people of the Rock District attended the services of this First Church of Christ. In fact, "the most noticeable sight of the day was the large team wagon of the Rock Company with four horses, driven by John Chapman, Jr., full loaded with girls from the Rock Factory." The spirit in which this building, as well as many others, was raised, shows us how remarkably universal was the license of the early part of the century. Honorable men could see no evil in drink, even the pastors indulged themselves freely on festive occasions. The prevailing idea seemed to be that liquor was always a benefit, indeed, it became a panacea for every ill. We must remember that these were

times of great hardihod and self-sacrifice. The logic was simple. Here were the crops, close by were the distilleries. If comfort were so easily forthcoming, why should they not have it? Yet, out of that age of well-meaning license, there arose a company of men, remarkable in temperance and wonderful in virtue.

Colonel McLean was continually interested in some new enterprise. Following the old Rock, he built the Frank Factory, close to the site now occupied by the James J. Regan Manufacturing Company, then an oil mill at the New England bridge, and at length a paper mill near the present Belding privilege. He likewise did considerable surveying, particularly in the laying out of new roads. These varied undertakings became so pressing that in 1831, Colonel McLean closed his relations with the old Rock. George Kellogg naturally succeeded as the head of the company.

In contrast to the marvelous achievement of Colonel McLean as an engineer, Mr. Kellogg presented an equally remarkable power. He was an aggressor and a sustainer, in truth—an enduring force. As founder of the New England Mill in company with Captain Allen Hammond, he shared, when one considers those troublesome times of '37, a confidence truly unique. A mind of rare discrimination, a sublime morality, a constant energy, we today do honor to the character of George Kellogg, consecrated in truth, "To the weal of man and the glory of God." In that same year, 1837, a committee of nine was appointed to procure a site and affix a stake for the Second Church in Vernon. This action was taken because the population had steadily increased, and was now more than sixty families, or three hundred persons. The cost of this new meeting house was met by voluntary subscription, and was necessarily borne by a few individuals. We know that George Kellogg was one of the first deacons of this church, we know also that he possessed the crowning virtue of all noble characters—true generosity. We may, therefore, rightly and in more senses than one, call him the "Father of the First Church in Rockville."

Mention has already been made of Captain Allen Hammond and his connection with the New England Mills. Mr. Hammond belonged to that group of sterling citizens, who, in recalling with honor today, we but exalt and honor ourselves. Of an unassuming nature, persistent in principle, he became a guiding spirit of every honest impulse, a vital force ever pointing upward. In addition to his association with the New England Company, Mr. Hammond was for a time agent of the Rock Company, also an organizer and first president of the Rockville National Bank, as well as treasurer of the savings bank. Through this relationship to the last-named institutions, the character of Mr. Hammond is revealed in its truest and most perfect light. To distinguished probity there was added that charm of real greatness—unaffected modesty.

All the manufacturing companies, except during the general depression of 1837-'38, had an excellent record. Among the small, one-set mills, the Springville Company was especially notable for continuously handsome dividends. The directors of this company were unusually practical men—Alonzo Bailey, agent; Chauncey Winchell, wheelwright; Christopher Burdick, machinist, and Phineas Talcott, later founder of the American Mill. Up to the year 1840, the several districts were recognized by the names of the various mill companies. In 1841 the first post office was established and the name Rockville adopted. Samuel P. Rose, agent for the Rock Manufacturing Company, became the first postmaster. The New York and Boston stage (we must remember these were still the days of stage coaches), now made its regular trip through Rockville. At length, after twenty years of earnest struggle, nature had yielded her supremacy, farmers had graduated to manufacturers, a settlement had given place to an ordained village.

From this time on there was in every direction a rapid expansion. In 1843, on land offered by the Rock Company, Samuel P. Rose and Hubbard Kellogg built the first hotel. Before this time there had been no suitable meeting place

for the development of the general social side of life. So great was the satisfaction, therefore, on the completion of this first public house, that a great festive gathering was held, and our fathers and mothers regaled themselves in a way, judging from the records, easily equal to any idea of gaiety that we may pride ourselves on today—not so scientific, perhaps, but fully as robust. In that same year, 1843, the New England Company, in a new mill, began the manufacture of cassimeres, the first departure from the time-honored satinet. Rockville began to assume the form in which we see it today. One store established in 1833, was no longer sufficient. Houses multiplied and there was heralded the first real boom in real estate.

The year 1847 witnessed the building of the American Mill by Phineas Talcott. Mr. Talcott was distinctly a man of affairs. As agent of the Rock, president of the railroad company and of the savings bank, he was another example of the powerful virtues of our fathers. In the realm of politics, his temperament, eminently judicial, carried him to the principal offices, and made him always a factor of very great influence. Shortly after, in 1850, the firm of White and Corbin was organized. Cyrus White possessed a remarkable energy, and was largely interested in the development of the Brooklyn side of the Hockanum. As a supporter of the Methodist denomination, his firmness of principle and truth of heart was continuously manifest.

The first Irishman came to Vernon as early as 1845, and the German a few years later. So large has been their increase and so prominent their work in the township, that we are glad to do honor today to the Irish and German immigrant, through whose thrift and integrity Vernon truly has builded well.

During those years of darkness from 1861-'64, when times were troubled, and days and hours were racking to the soul; in that great war of the Rebellion, Vernon cheerfully yielded her portion to the service of the nation.

Of modern Vernon and the noble lives that have been lived, men whose memories are still fresh in our minds, and whose passing calls back again regrets still lingering, of these, today, how shall we speak with proper honor or with sufficient thankfulness? Editors, merchants, farmers, the professions, artisans, manufacturers—think, for a moment, of the long roll of honor! Permit me to make mention of three whose names stand forth with peculiar luster: Dwight Loomis, Christian statesman, impartial judge; George Maxwell, master of finance, leader of men; George Sykes, manufacuring genius, captain of industry. These men and many more fought great battles of faith. As we turn our eyes toward the future, let me suggest a simple watchword united to the fair name of our town, and to bring these lines of reflection to a close with the words: "Forward! Vernon!"

REMINISCENCES BY CHARLES W. BURPEE.

The following reminiscences were by Charles W. Burpee of Hartford, a former Rockville boy:

There were missionaries in those days. To help some of them, we bought chestnuts, each nut in a cute little phial, corked in. I came across one of those chestnuts a while ago, in my mother's attic. The chestnut was just as good as it was when I gave five of my precious pennies for it, and denied myself cornballs and soap bubbles for a week. Then the bottled chestnuts were photographed and we gave a few pennies more—or the price of a bag of precious peanuts—for the *"carte de visite."*

Thus we paid for those actual chestnuts and so helped a worthy cause. Other "chestnuts" were given to us and, true to the law of human nature, I don't think we appreciated them half as much. They were given to us from the pulpit of a Sunday—I should say, from recollection, about once in two weeks, but in reality I presume it was not oftener than once a month. Those were called "missionary Sundays"; they were not bulletined or advertised in advance; they took us as they found us, and thereby, perhaps, they found a good many more of us than they otherwise might have done. We knew it was missionary Sunday in my church when a certain tall, white-headed, sepulchre-voiced minister from another town took a seat on the pulpit platform with our regularly employed minister. I see him yet, I hear his voice; but I've forgotten what he said, if I ever heard.

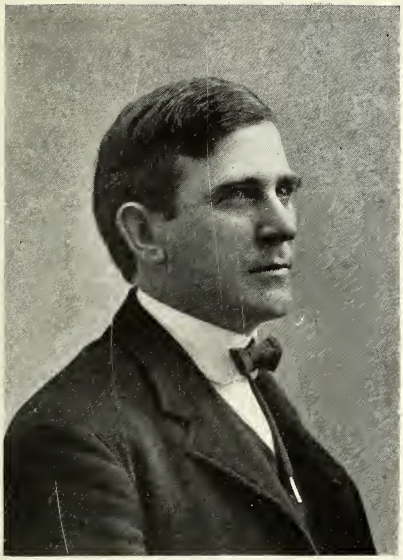
Nature abhors a void. When that missionary-Sunday man ceased coming there may have been no one to fill his place; I do not know for I was not in Rockville then. But the thought comes to me that you and nature are trying to train me to fill his place—if not as a pleader for missions, at least as a dispenser of "chestnuts." And, from the way the training has gone on the past year or two I wonder if half a century from now some one will not rise up and say of my gray beard and "chestnuts" all that I say—and even all that I think—of my early predecessor.

Reminiscence must always be personal even if it is not respectful. It implies old age looking back upon youth. Every generation since Nestor has had men who would indulge in it. Now, the vision of youth is somewhat distorted. The world appears to us as children to be divided into giants, clowns and pigmies. The giants are all the self-respecting adults whom our parents know, or who get honorable mention on the street or in the baseball stand—a considerable class; the clowns are those who for one reason or another cannot win the respect of children; the pigmies are those around us as other children. The giants will remain giants in our memories forever, even though some of them were pretty "small potatoes"; the pigmies, many of them, we watch grow or find they have developed into giants after we have been away from home a few years. To illustrate: Men who always have been giants to me—and most properly so—are men like Judge Loomis, Judge Talcott, George Maxwell, Charles Harris (who somehow I always picture with a fireman's red shirt and trumpet), Gardner Grant, the Talcottville Talcotts, Congressman Henry, George Brown, Mr. Ogden, Mr. Parker, Mr. Symonds —and with them every man who wore the blue. The one or two who seemed to grow backwards into "small potatoes" as I grew older and gained a better vision, I cannot now recall—I believe none are living. Of contemporaneous little chaps who have become giants—why, I need only call the roll from my various teachers' old record books! And for the development of the one who first stood before us as a regulation law student, I have only to point to Hon. Charles Phelps. For the development of the boys who were the first to receive diplomas at the High School, the "Goodell boys," I have only to refer to him who reads the ode today. I never could have aspired to step so jauntily to their level as I have on this occasion, and I must not forget that it was simply as dispenser of chestnuts that the committee boosted me here.

We boys of the sixties and seventies were on the threshold of a new era—a few were already over it. I heard a learned educator the other evening analyzing a Massachusetts state report and lamenting the present educational conditions that surround our youth. He said with sorrow that the present course of studies in our schools did not attract our boys and girls after they had reached the legal age limit of fourteen, and they were glad to abandon their studies. If my recollection of my boyhood days is trustworthy, it is not in that particular that today differs from yesterday. But he went on to say that in this generation the child is deprived of the home education he or she formerly received, meaning the work about the house and grounds which made girls good housekeepers and boys good jacks at about all ordinary trades. What with bread made by machinery, clothes and dishes washed by machinery, sewing done by machinery and houses cleaned by hose and suction, what is left for a girl but to go to dancing school? And with our kindling wood bought in bundles and bags over the grocer's counter, what is there for the boy but to play baseball?

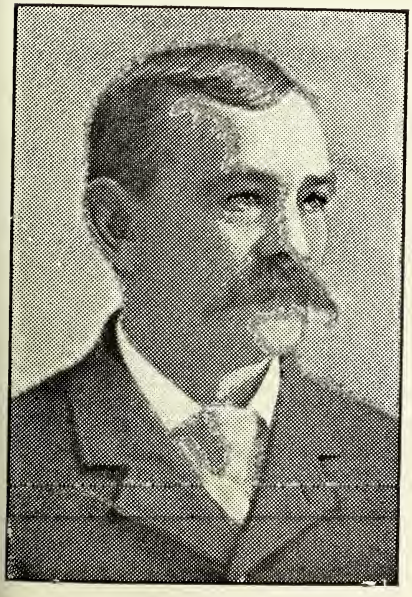
My learned friend treated the subject more seriously than my paraphrase might indicate—as one of the great national problems of the day; and considering the mass of children, by and large, we ought all to watch the experiments in vocation schools. I want to acknowledge right now my indebtedness to my parents for bringing me into the world before the labor-saving devices for children had been invented. Many of you are even better off in this respect than I am. As I say, my boyhood was on the threshold of this new era; a few years and I wouldn't have known what it was to split and pile wood and do like chores before I could go skating or play ball.

And now, the last vestige of joking aside, what were we village boys learning that can't be learned from any textbooks? What were we having instilled into us that would be worth more in getting on in life than tearing Milton's "Paradise Lost" into prepositions and adverbs? We were

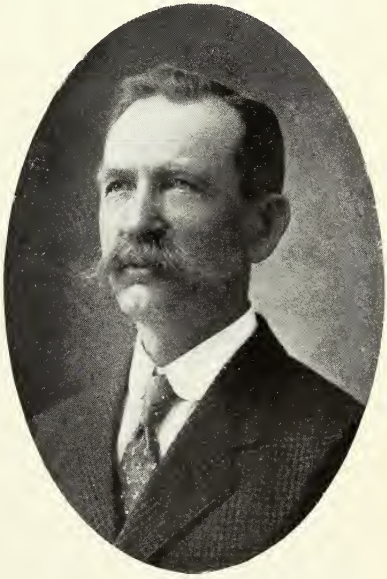


GEORGE FORSTER,
Member of Committees on Reception and Invitations, Sports, Public Safety.

FRANCIS B. SKINNER,
Member of the Committees on Sports, Transportation.



JOHN H. ZIMMERMANN,
Member Committee on Decoration.



PAUL BRACHE,
Member of the Committee on Transportation.

learning to use our hands and eyes and bodies; and we were learning to perform heavy tasks for the general family good before we went out for selfish amusement. Sometimes, when the fishing was good or the circus unusually well advertised, the parental hand may have seemed relentless if not cruel, but by holding us to the tasks that some one must perform, we learned to subordinate personal desires and we gained also a power of steadfast application which was to help us in our future studies and in earning our daily bread. We know that the youth of today have their annoyances; we know that the football arena and the tennis court can test their mettle, but if advancing civilization has reduced the number of practical ways in which their mettle may be tested until it has become a matter of grave national concern, we must grieve as loyal citizens but, in this moment of reminiscence, we may rejoice that we were born when we were.

"The true man never wishes to be a child again." Ah, but those were halcyon days in the little village. We cannot say that they began and ended then, for our fathers and mothers believe that the real halcyon days were when they were young. But there was then no shriek of whistle on or around "Snip," the Vernon reservoir hadn's been fished dry, arbutus hadn't been uprooted, a boy could consume a whole day in getting to West Street and back, Exchange Building was a skyscraper, Talcott Park was a ball ground, we could coast on almost any street and the girls were always ready to play copenhagen! For tight ropes to perform on we had the cables in "Father" Lewis's quarry right back of the school grounds; for "run, sheep, run" we had the full sweep from "Snip" down to the Saxony Mill and no trolley in the way. Our chief evening entertainment is recalled by the outdoor vaudeville performance this week. It was given on identically the same spot, near "the hotel," the blazing torches gathering us street Arabs from far and near. There was only one principal performer and he was selling patent medicine or cleanser. Oh, the excitement of

it when he got one of us up under his light to illustrate the virtues of his bottled stuff—to pull a tooth, bathe a bruise or clean a spot off our coats! I can see those smoky torches and smell that stuff now, and almost can hear the swear words of some of the village elders when we stepped on their toes. For everybody attended these performances.

That village didn't need much law—to our minds. When there was an infraction and a consequent enforcement by Sheriff Paulk or the constables, the whole town knew about it and assembled. The hideous violator was dragged into the damp dungeon hole under a market near Market Street bridge. Of beverages we saw little effect except in the innocent joyousness of our German citizens at the celebrations of the Turners in Doane's Grove. Yet there must have been evil within the knowledge of the authorities, for I recall vividly the scene (after no-license had been voted) when great casks were opened near the present Park Place and their amber contents were allowed to flow down the gutters to the canal. And when there was a fire, what terror was struck into our young breasts by those booming factory bells the length of the valley and the shouts of the men running with the machine!

Every town has its precious landmarks, and buildings particularly dear to old inhabitants and former residents. Hartford has its Charter Oak Site, but Hartford never had a Talcott's Grove or a Doane's Grove. New Haven has its Hyperion Theater, but New Haven never had a White's Opera House. Waterbury has its Roaring Brook and its Naugatuck, but it never had a Hockanum. Bridgeport has its harbor, but it never had a Paper Mill Pond. All those towns are pleasant to live in—for a time; I know by experience; but for boys and girls they can't compare with the Rockville we boys and girls knew.

"Rockville hasn't changed much," so some of the present dwellers say. We old-timers, returning every chance we get, love it all the more on that account. It has changed and just now it is changing so rapidly that we fear most

of the old familiar places and things will be obliterated. Then shall we have to center our affections upon this beautiful Vernon Center which verily changeth not, and in its loveliness cannot be changed except to harm.

I know the committee never intended that I should get up here and speak "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," as youthful Senator Noone would phrase it. The whole of it would take the rest of the week. Every one of us has his or her particular memories, cherished and ever with us wherever we may wander. What I was to do, then, was to appear as the representative of the old boys and girls, and to say something which should voice the home sentiment of all of them. The giants of my day may have been the pigmies of the days of some of you, and the pigmies of my day the giants to others of you. Some of us may have different pictures than others of us have of "Father" Lewis' quarry, Putnam's sawmill, the Saxony, the Leeds Mill, the American, the Warp Mill, Paper Mill Pond, Snipsic Lake and even White's Opera House, but we have one thing in common—our fondness for getting back here. Perhaps some of us thought the told town was rather slow when we turned our backs and hurried down the valley to Vernon Depot where we waited only for the next train east or west; but I know that no one will dispute me when I say that those of us who went farthest east or west envy those of us who stopped nearer by because we can the more readily and the more frequently get back here to the old scenes.

This implies that the atmosphere of the old town was the same for us all. We realize this fact down deep in our hearts; I see it reflected in the faces of those before me, and it finds expression in the moments when we drop the celebration spirit and each communes with himself or herself. It was a Godly town; it was a town in which the young were carefully guided into the right path. It was a democratic town where the children of the rich and the poor were on the same level, and caste unknown was unknown. It

was a town of neighbors, for the most part hard-working and thrifty, innocent in their amusements, modest and humble in their disposition, developing the man fiber and the woman fiber which the world stamps as New England. As such a community must be, it was patriotic. There are those of us here whose most vivid recollection still is of the days when men abandoned the loom and the plow to answer the nation's call; and thank God! there still are some of those men with us who can hear us proclaim our pride in the record of the town in the Civil War.

We have much, then, in common memory to be thankful for—in the hallowed memories as well as in the reminiscence of frolic and fun. Most naturally, therefore, we all of us wish to renew our youth; we all of us wish to recall and refresh the ideals of our days of worthiest ambition; we all of us like to pay tribute to the high thinking (if lowly living) of the times past, to the atmosphere created by such noble men as Winslow and Fisk and Hyde and Kelsey and Bingham and Kellogg and Maxwell and Loomis and Spaulding and Risley and Dickinson—we all of us like to grasp the hands and look into the eyes of those who shared our early joys and sorrows, and of those who blessed us as we went forth. And we all of us commend those who have remained here and those who have come upon the scene since our day, to maintain the old-time standard for the unpretentious, conservative yet ever progressive town of Vernon.

PROF. THOMAS D. GOODELL'S COMMEMORATIVE POEM.

The commemorative poem, written by Prof. Thomas D. Goodell of New Haven, a member of the faculty of Yale University and a former Rockville boy, was read by him.

It follows in full:

Τροφεῖα πατρίδι σήμερον φέρω τάδε.

As the Greek youth brought to his nurse a gift,
So bring I this thank-offering to our town.

I.

"More room!" said the folk of the river towns,
Hartford and Windsor and Wethersfield.
"There's good land east fair crops will yield.
Let the Old World fight for outworn crowns,
We've better to do, building a state
Godly and free—and rich, maybe;
And if stepmotherly England frowns,
She's a long way off!" So they spread o'er the plain
Homes and billows of ripening grain,
And on the hilltop consecrate
The house where God's word shall be strictly taught.
Wheat, rye, and the red gold of Indian corn,
Wool and flax, which the women wrought
With distaff and spinning-wheel and loom—
This was their wealth; and children were born,
Many and sturdy, and still there was room.
If dwellings were plain and winters were long,
They woke in June to the robin's song,
In the high elm orioles hung their nest,
The bobolink's rapture gladden'd the morn,
And the whippoorwills charm'd their rest.

II.

So in these upland fields
At the valley's eastern bound
Time her slow fruitage yields.
Priest Kellogg, servant of God and man, long crown'd
With love and honor, in yon God's acre sleeps.
The colonies are states, united, strong
In hope and promise that to youth belong.
From Snipsic still the river leaps
Unhinder'd, pure, down the cool forest glen.
Said men of Vernon, "Now why
Need the hurrying waters rush idly by?
Let them learn our Yankee rule: 'tis when
We have done our stent we are free to play.
Let our wild Hockanum do as we!"
They yoked him to mill-wheels, made the spring flood stay
To help in August drought.
He ground their flour, saw'd the forest away;
Then to finer tasks they put him to school,
With cotton and paper, silk and wool;
And he toil'd for all in season and out,
Till more helpers were needed, and helpers came
From the crowded lands of ancient fame,
From Europe over the sea.
And the village along the busy stream
Throve and grew, and began to dream
Of larger things to be.

III.

Ah, brethren of the Southland,
Whose fathers, with our own,
'Stablisht the dear Republic,
How keen hath our quarrel grown!
Again with childish wondering eyes
I see the throng'd street on that July day,
The waiting coaches, music and banners gay,

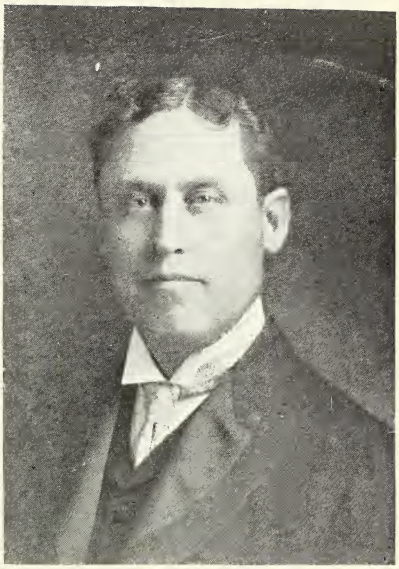
And women weeping, while hoarse cheers arise.
Now they are gone, first comers to the call,
"Three hundred thousand more!" From all
War ever takes the best. Cheerly they fare
On toward Potomac's war-swept banks—
Young fathers, from the last kiss of wife and child,
And boys too young to know love's wild
Deep ecstacy and woe, whose foreheads wear
The mother's chrism of farewell prayer.
Tho' stern forced march, Antietam's field,
And Marye's Heights, and Gettysburg await them,
And many shall return no more,
Or come in coffined honor, or maimèd sore,
Their high design and inborn constancy
And valorous hope elate them.
Now each new May let the nation's thanks
In fragrant bloom fresh wreaths of honor plait them,
By whose blood and agony
The nation's wound was heal'd.

IV.

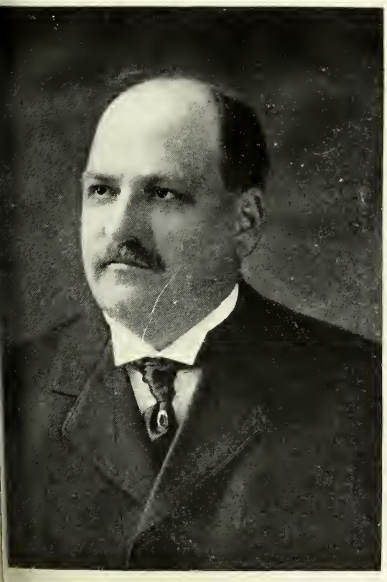
Peace once more, and the fruitful arts of peace!
There know thy strength, my country, there
Let thy pent youthful vigor dare—
Not in fleets nor tropic empire—seek release,
Treading new pathways to a nation's glory,
Which yet are old as Athens. And Vernon's story
Shall be true type thereof and prophecy.
Here patience, industry, inventive skill
Win nature's power to do man's will
To free mankind and magnify.
And whoso buildeth honest work,
Taking no private gain
From other's loss or pain,
He builds for all time, tho' his deed
Aim but to fill the daily need
For food and shelter; and no subtle murk

Of social theory can befog his mind
Whose hands have earn'd a home.
Here Irish wit and German thrift,
Slavic passion, Italian courtesy,
And many an Old World people's special gift,
With plain New England common-sense combined,
Shall shape a people sane and strong,
Full-rounded, like St. Peter's dome,
Based on the old, unto new heights ascending.
Here, too, the ancient Mother Church doth find
Her wilful daughters, tho' estrangèd long,
Hands of ungrudging welcome now extending,
While the firm Hebrew faith still proves its power,
Eldest, yet ever young, no longer forced to cower.
Alike one Father-God they teach,
And that man liveth not by bread alone.
For every word divine he must out-reach
In searching unafraid. Science and art
Also are worship, and no lesser part
Of our true native heaven-descended speech.
And our democracy means equal right
For all to climb the spirit's mountain height.
Here therefore shall stand open wide
All paths to ampler life—the treasured lore
Of ages, and the swelling tide
Of incorruptible treasures new from every shore.
The hand shall here learn delicate power, the voice
Grow musical, and homes be beautified
With gardens, modest or stately, that all eyes rejoice.
And for that sweet forest glen,
Long lost 'neath streets and factories,
Art shall discern a way to compensate—
With shapely bridge and planted bank and park again
Make beautiful, with tamer harmonies,
But noble still, what now is desolate—
In civic grace the lovely valley recreate.

FRANCIS T. MAXWELL,
Chairman of Finance Committee and Member of Committee on Historical Addresses, Events and Relics.



DAVID A. SYKES,
Member of Committee on Public Exercises and Committee on Licenses and Privileges.



FRANCIS A. RANDALL,
airman of Advertising, Publicity nd Printing Committee, Secretary f Finance Committee, Member of ommittee on Licenses and Privilges.

FRANCIS J. REGAN,
Member of Committees on Public Safety and Transportation.

V.

Thou little commonwealth, our home, our pride,
A fairer dawn draws nigh.
The ancient Dark is fading; a light breeze
Wafts dewy odors, and the trees
Their leafy answer softly make.
Pellucid gold drifts up the morning sky,
Song-sparrow and bluebird are awake,
Soon the full chorus will begin,
Bathing the world in music, telling of love.
Then day shall enter in,
With light, with beauty, and with joy, whereof
The humblest with the highest shall partake.

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS BY HON. CHARLES PHELPS.

Following is the commemorative address by Hon Charles Phelps, president of the Vernon Centennial Committee:

Vernon, our beloved and typical New England town, has reached its one-hundredth anniversary. "The horologe of time strikes the full century with a solemn chime," and bids us take note of the passing years; to heed the lessons which were imparted when the infant town was baptized and to recall those which we may have forgotten.

From modest beginnings, Vernon has assumed an importance out of proportion to its area and population. It has taken rank with the most progressive towns of the day and has given a splendid account of its hundred years of progress. The fame of its industries has become international, and although its population numbers less than ten thousand, it is equipped with a free library splendidly appointed, a memorial building, and with site secured and arrangements made for the permanent establishment, in the near future, of a manual training school and a public hospital.

We are celebrating an event which took place one hundred years ago, but incidently commemorating one which occurr-

ed three centuries ago. Between the years 1607 and 1609, in that portion of rural England termed the East Angelican Shires, a body of men with a purpose fixed as fate, prepared to leave their native country for the shores of Holland. No celebration of this character would be complete without their recognition. They stood for institutions and ideals which made New England history. They kept pace with the progress of independent thought, but were never swerved from their ultimate purpose. Later, when they reached the shores of America, they brought with them the principles of English liberty united to those of Dutch individualism.

One of the interesting questions of the hour addresses itself to the inquiry whether it is to England or Holland that we are most indebted for the best that remains to us of those institutions founded by the fathers. The town meeting, free public schools, equality of taxation, and the authority of a representative government, are the true product of English principles united on this soil with those derived from the Dutch Republic.

What was the ultimate object of those men who largely shaped the thought of our Colonial days? What dominant purpose impelled them to cross dangerous seas and to explore a still more dangerous country? Obstructing forces and real and fancied persecutions at home were perils of less magnitude than those which awaited them in the New World.

Under those political conditions existing at the time of their separation, it was impossible for them to enjoy religious and political liberty without incurring personal danger. But they were eager to develop and spread those principles for which they were willing to sacrifice all. With this desire, however, there was bred something of a spirit of intolerance which attempted to force upon others their form of a theocratic government.

Their purpose aside from this alloy of human frailty was one of the purest and noblest that has ever actuated

the deeds of men. They wished to lead Godly lives, and to this end they surrounded themselves with those things which encouraged Godly living. They attempted to put into actual practice their own literal construction of the Bible. They insisted that others should do the same; sincere piety was to them the test of citizenship. They dreamed of a pure theocracy and laid the foundation for such a structure. They believed it possible to square their entire existence by arbitrary rules wrested bodily from Holy Writ.

Their ultimate object was impossible, but in their persistent search for it they revealed principles of political co-operation which has made their name immortal. Like the alchemist, they sought something visionary, but in that search they gave to the world the results of important and far-reaching experiments.

We are their heirs, and much of the good which they accomplished is still with us. We are all equal before the law; the burden of taxation is equitably distributed; the system of free public schools established, and the old-fashioned town meeting still in vogue. Too much cannot be said in praise of this last-mentioned institution. It is the forum of the people, and if the will of the people does not here find free expression, it is the people's fault. This institution is an exponent of pure democracy which an able American writer once compared to a raft. "Your feet are always in the water," he said, "but you cannot sink."

We are enjoying the blessings vouchsafed to us by the persistent efforts of a noble ancestry, but with these blessings have descended corresponding obligations. To our charge have been committed those principles of government upon which the hopes of a people rest, and upon this anniversary we may be properly called upon to give an account of our stewardship. We were taught the value of the simple life regulated by the precepts of the moral law; that personal independence and individualism, properly exercised, were the stamp of character; that the will of the people,

properly expressed, was the supreme tribunal; that town and county, state and nation, had each its peculiar functions, powers and duties clearly defined and independent thought related; and that they should experience no conflict and suffer no encroachments.

Can we truthfully say that we have preserved those conditions or that the principles which they represent have not suffered at our hands? Facing the dawn of a new century, our answer to the stern inquiry must be in a measure apologetic. The simple life has disappeared and has been supplanted by one of a complex character. The excuse offered is the great and increasing activity of the age; the multitude of improvements and inventions impelling a degree of progress amazing and bewildering, and calling for a life of such intense and ceaseless activity as to strain the mental faculties to a dangerous tension; a life in which no space is left for reflection, meditation or prayer.

These conditions, exacting and exhausting, are to be deplored, not only on account of their personal effect upon those involved, but also on account of the sacrifices which must be made along other lines to meet their requirements. The reflective nature and the poetic temperament have small room in which to develop, when the mind is completely engrossed with the thought of material gain. These conditions partially explain the relatively meager importance of the fine arts in the general progress. Poetry and music, painting and sculpture have not kept pace with inventions and mechanical devices.

He who would woo the muses must prosecute his suit for Art's sake. He cannot be chary of his time, or be entirely engrossed by the desire for material wealth. He must develop the reflective faculty and abide his time; he must wander "far from the madding crowd."

The tendency of the time leaves little opportunity for such devotion, and even when exercised it is doubtful if it be sufficiently appreciated. Material wealth has been

given such undue prominence that men have envied the wearer of the golden rather than of the laurel crown. Money gatherers in their narrow and superficial review of men and affairs have classed the scholar and the professional thinker as non-productive.

Consistent with the idea of ultimate attainment, individualism has been thrust aside, and enormous combinations effected, stifling competition and minimizing the force of personal responsibility. The advocates of this departure urge with some truth the material advantages thus derived, instancing the increase and availability of those things which a few years ago were regarded as rare and costly luxuries. Yet, these very conditions lead to extravagance and excess, and no material advantage can compensate for the loss of the personal factor. The tendency to combine and centralize has so pervaded all departments of business that the law has been invoked to correct the resultant evils. The Federal government has concerned itself in devising means to forestall the general effect of this centralizing tendency in public service corporations. And right here it may be pertinent to inquire if the government, whose aid has been invoked, is itself entirely free from any fault in this direction. Has it drawn to itself powers not originally designed to be exercised by it; has it in this respect kept intact and inviolate the principles of the fathers; has it wielded no weapon in this warfare with the alleged evil other than that delegated to it? It must be admitted that the tendency of governmental supervision is to a degree in accord with that of corporate management. Both are systemizing and centralizing their forces; both are combining all of the elements of power in their control that they may be directed from one authoritative head. Town authority is gradually yielding to the superior power of the legislature, and the authority of the state to that of the Federal government. Such a system naturally establishes great centers of power which disturbs the general equilibrium. It removes from convenient reach and makes it difficult to locate the responsible party, or

to curtail acts *"ultra vires."* The very government is thus laid open to the charge that those evils so vehemently declaimed against in corporate management, have crept into our public policies.

In the closing hours of the first century of Vernon's existence she, in common with New England, is concerned with the question of the conservation of our natural resources. The greed and folly of man have dissipated these to an alarming degree. Commercialism and selfishness, under the guise of progress, have with ruthless hand laid waste mountain and plain. With utter disregard of those who are to follow us or of those finer feelings which are indicative of appreciation, we on a broad scale are following the example of the spendthrift and the prodigal. Warnings of wisdom and of expert science fall upon deaf ears, or if heard are received with indifference.

The wooded districts on our mountain sides protecting the sources of our noble rivers and cascades are as much entitled to our thoughtful care and consideration as the maintenance of our highways or of any of our erected memorials. Depletion of the soil and exhaustion of mineral wealth occasioned by wanton destruction are beginning to show their natural consequences.

Men in high places have for some years paid little heed to the voice of entreaty or to the note of warning. We are met with the brutal proposition that our children can take care of themselves, or with the arrogant assumption of superior wisdom that when all of these things disappear something better will take their place.

When the beauty of the noblest and most picturesque waterfall in the world is assailed by those who would use its power for commercial purposes, we are told that this is an age of progress. Those who have followed the discussion of this subject on the platform and in the halls of congress have had occasion to remark the general absence of sentiment from the line of argument. The advocates of the measure looking to the conservation of our na-

tural resources have perhaps with wisdom urged commercial reasons for stemming the progress of destruction.

And yet what mighty forces emanate from the familiar scenes of "Old New England"; her hills of picturesque beauty, her numberless waterfalls and cascades, her dells, rivers and streams! What associations cluster about each of these! What inspirations come to us from them! He who could witness unmoved their destruction is of a nature foreign to all principles adduced from the fathers, selfish, heartless, barbaric. He who would destroy them for gain would sacrifice any other temple and lay waste any heritage. What would be the New England town when all that can speak to us of the past disappear; when material conditions shall be such that if one of the fathers could revisit the old familiar scene, he would fail in recognition of it? What will New England be when conditions compel us to strike from our national hymn the words "I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills," as too absurd to be continued longer?

It is a commentary upon the character of our general patriotism that the president of our republic felt compelled, in the face of this menacing evil, to assemble at Washington the governors of all of the states to consider the adoption of some systematic plan which would save us from ourselves. We are thankful, however, that the president had the courage and wisdom to arrange such an assembly under the very eaves of the Capitol and during the session of Congress. This is a good omen and a beneficent sign of the times, for it has already stirred the public conscience. The highest courts of some of our New England states have also moved in the right direction, and when of late appealed to, they have spoken with no uncertain sound. Forestry legislation, the institution of Arbor Day, and the quiet but effective work of the village improvement society, are most encouraging features.

Every true citizen feels that it is his duty to do something to preserve those things which have been passed along

to him; to use them wisely, not to dissipate or destroy them. It becomes his pleasure to help render more secure the blessings vouchsafed to him of a material as well as of a political character. The obligations existing between him and his country are not as some would have us believe, all on one side; neither can the citizen demand of the government as a matter of right those things which he does not happen to possess. This tendency leads directly to what has been aptly termed "paternalism in government"; that doctrine which educates the idle and restless to believe that the country owes them support as obligatory as that which rests upon a parent toward a child.

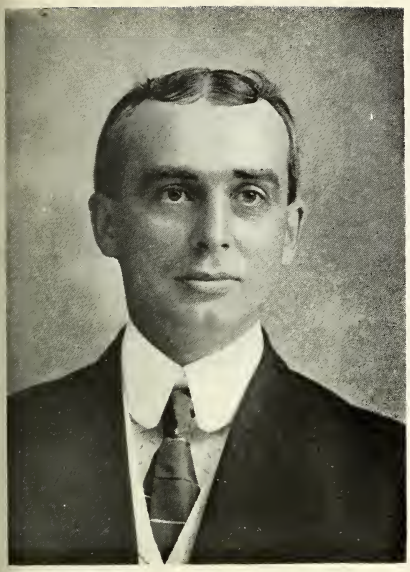
The words of our late ex-president on this subject are words of wisdom; he said it is the duty of the citizen to support the government, and not the government to support the citizen.

The founders of our New England towns laid great stress upon the obligations of citizenship. The duty implied therefrom could never be lawfully shifted to other shoulders. The duty exacted was a stern one, personal and perpetual.

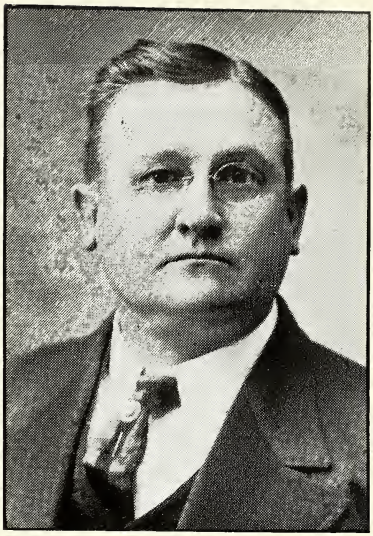
A government built upon the basis of good citizenship, acknowledging personal obligation, becomes secure in its superstructure. The splendid record of the New England towns is a natural sequence of such a beginning. Personality of a high character entering into all departments becomes the most efficient force in government. Where it exists there is little to be feared from the current evils of corruption, favoritism, boss-rule or monopoly, for the citizen makes the state.

Such was the doctrine of the fathers, and it brings us back to the point of individual responsibility. The town is what the citizens make it; if its politics are clean it is because its citizens make them so; if its government is wisely and efficiently administered, it is because its citizens are wise and efficient.

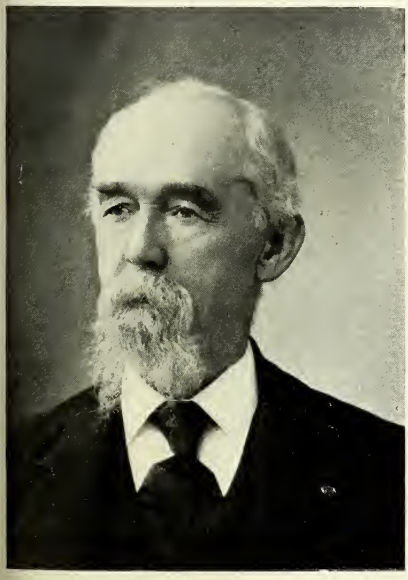
Let us then dedicate ourselves to the principles suggested and taught in the establishment of a New England town.



GEORGE P. WENDHEISER,
Secretary of Committee on Public Exercises, Member of Committees on Advertising, Publicity and Printing, Licenses and Privileges.



JOHN W. HEFFERON,
Member of Committees on Finance and Public Exercises and Ex-Chief of Rockville Fire Department.



A. B. PARKER,
Member of Committees on Historical Addresses, Events and Relics, Invitations and Reception.
Died Wednesday, March 3, 1909.

CHARLES N. McLEAN,
Member of the Committee on Public Safety.

Let us take a stand in its town meetings on the basis of mutual obligations, and for the principles of personal responsibility.

COLONIAL BALL.

The Colonial ball under the auspices of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R., commemorating the centenary of the town of Vernon, which was held in Town Hall on Monday evening, June 29, 1908, was the most brilliant social function in the town's history. It was in every way a fitting introduction to the events that followed.

The Town Hall was magnificently decorated. Green and white were the predominating colors, and American flags were conspicuous. There was a streamer ceiling, every streamer being edged with a deep ruffle, the green streamer containing a white ruffle and the white streamer a green. The walls were covered with pleated bunting of white all the way around, partly covered with green and white fans, every fan containing a deep green ruffle. The tower was decorated in a similar manner. In the center of the tower was a D. A. R. emblem in between the laurel.

The stage was made into a balcony, the front being festooned in green and white. The background was green and white with a large sized painting of General Israel Putnam in the center, with large American flags, military draped, on each side. The picture motto contained the words: "He Dared to Lead Where Anyone Dared to Follow."

The booth in the southeast corner of the hall was decorated in white and green, with a large shield in the center, made of red, white and blue with spangled stars. Inside the booth were two flags on staffs near the lieutenant-governor's chairs. The gallery was draped in green and white in an artistic manner. The back of the same was draped in white and partly covered with green fans, edged with white ruffles. The pillars on each side of the stage in front were covered with silk banners. On top of each pillar was a shield draped with flags, each shield surmounted by a gold American eagle. On the east side, as one entered the door to the hall, was a refreshment booth draped in green and white in an artistic manner.

The illuminations were magnificent. Streamers of electric lights were under the chandeliers, all wound with laurel rope. Streamers also followed the end of the drapery around the side walls. These many white bulbs added greatly to the general effect. The decorating scheme was an original idea of the New England Decorating Company of Rockville, and the electrical effects were furnished by Williams and Goltra of Hartford.

Sutherland's Foot Guard Orchestra of Hartford furnished a delightful concert program and music for dancing.

At 9 o'clock, the Putnam Phalanx, that historic military organization, arrived from Hartford by special car. The members were escorted into Town Hall by the aides, floor committee and reception committee, led by George E. Sykes and Miss Florence M. Belding. They formed two lines. The members of the Putnam Phalanx passed through and under an arch formed by the wands of the aides. The Putnam Phalanx were seated in front of the gallery, a section being reserved for them and their ladies.

Following the reception to the Putnam Phalanx came the reception to Lieutenant-Governor, E. J. Lake and Mrs. Lake. They were escorted by the aides, floor committee and reception committee. Two lines formed at the entrance to the tower, and Lieutenant-Governor Lake, escorted by Mrs. E. H. Preston, and Mrs. Lake, escorted by Colonel Francis T. Maxwell, passed under the wands of the aides, followed by the other members of the reception committee. They were seated in the tower. The aides and members of the floor committee escorted Lieutenant-Governor Lake and Mrs. Lake and Mrs. A. N. Belding, regent of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R., and all Daughters present, to the receiving line in front of the stage, where all were received. As the lieutenant-governor entered the hall the orchestra played: "Hail to the Chief." Those present arose and remained standing until Lieutenant-Governor Lake took his seat.

The gowns of the ladies were conceded to be the most elaborate ever worn upon any occasion in this section, all being made with the Colonial ball in mind.

To the following committees is due the credit for the success of the Colonial ball:

Committee of General Arrangements—Mrs. A. N. Belding, chairman; Mrs. Robert L. McChristie, Mrs. E. H. Preston, Mrs. A. L. Martin, Mrs. L. T. Tingier, H. H. Larkum, Frank M. Adams, Dr. W. H. Robinson, George E. Sykes.

Floor Committee—George E. Sykes, chairman; Frank M. Adams, A. L. Martin, W. A. Howell, Dr. W. H. Robinson, H. H. Larkum, Harold Loomis, Fred N. Belding, T. W. Sturgeon.

Aides—Miss Florence M. Belding, chairman; Miss Mildred Orcutt, Miss Gladys Keeney, Miss Katherine Murlless, Miss Edith Hayward, Miss Grace B. West, Miss Ethel West, Miss Edith Harwood, Miss Ruth Tillotson.

Press Committee—Miss Grace B. West.

Reception Committee — E. H. Preston, chairman; A. N. Belding, Francis T. Maxwell, A. T. Bissell, Dr. T. F. Rockwell, Robert McChristie, C. E. Harwood, A. P. Hammond, O. C. West.

THE AUTOMOBILE HILL CLIMB.

The automobile hill climbing contest on New England Hill on Tuesday afternoon, June 30, the first event of the kind that had ever occurred in Rockville, was an unqualified success. No feature of the centennial celebration aroused more genuine interest or was more thoroughly enjoyed. It was conceded by experts to be one of the biggest events of its kind ever held in this country. Seventy entries were received, including several of the most famous machines in the country, with drivers of national reputation. For weeks the officers of the Rockville Automobile Club worked hard to make the event a memorable one. President George E. Sykes of the club was the moving spirit and he was a very busy man for two weeks preceding the automobile hill climb. Every precaution was taken to guard against accidents.

The start, which was a rolling one of eight hundred feet, was made in front of the New England Mill office. The finish was at the telegraph pole on the east side of New England Hill, just around the corner where the road turns off from the New

England Hill schoolhouse. The course, which was practically a straight one, was about seven-eighths of a mile in length. It was put in first class condition by the city of Rockville, and the day before the hill climb, President George E. Sykes of the Rockville Automobile Club had it covered with calcium chloride to prevent any dust. The course was roped off the entire distance with wire rope. By an order, issued by the adjutant-general of the state, Company C of this city acted as a patrol, the members turning out in uniform. At stated intervals along the course men were stationed with red flags and megaphones. In this manner the time was announced at the grandstand. On the grandstand there were five hundred seats, which afforded the best view of the course. These seats, which were sold for fifty cents, were all taken, and thousands lined the course from one end to the other. It is estimated that ten thousand people witnessed the hill climb. Citizens of the town of Vernon were represented in large numbers, and all the adjoining cities and towns sent large delegations. Never in Vernon's history were there so many automobiles in town.

The various officials who had charge of the automobile hill climb and to whom great credit is due for the success of the event, were:

Umpires—William Maxwell, Francis T. Maxwell, Francis J. Regan, A. N. Belding, L. F. Bissell, Everett J. Lake, E. J. Garvan, Roy T. H. Barnes.

Referee—C. H. Gillette, Hartford Auto Club.

Starter—H. P. Maxim, Hartford Auto Club.

Scorer—Frank S. Olds, Rockville.

Timers—S. M. Butler, New York; Philip A. Sayles, New York; George Graham, New York.

Clerk of the Course—Warren Bartlett, Hartford.

Assistant Clerks of the Course—C. L. Heath, J. P. Cameron, A. E. Waite, Leslie Badmington, H. F. Loomis, J. W. McManus, William H. Yost, F. N. Belding, Fred J. Snow, William M. Lewis, P. M. Talcott, W. H. Robinson, Arthur D. Sykes, A. L. Martin, H. H. Larkum.

FIFE AND DRUM BY DAY, FIREWORKS AT NIGHT.

To such as love to hear the shrill note of the fife and the rattle of the drum, Wednesday of Rockville's big week must have been a day of days. With ten corps of fifers and drummers parading the streets, dressed in their varied uniforms, and headed by imposing drum-majors, he must have been a cold-blooded person indeed who failed to get some thrill of military fervor into his veins. The occasion for this gathering of the musical clans was the contest wherein cash prizes were to be competed for.

The center of interest to the large crowds congregated about Central Park, was the judges stand, where officiated C. M. Ulivieri of Florence, Italy, and Titus Whitehead, a member of Ulivieri's Band. Drum-Major William C. Steele of Hartford, occupied a seat on the bandstand, as an interested spectator.

Passing in review before the judges, each corps was accorded points on its performance, and general appearance. Both modern and ancient styles of drumming were put in competition, and awards made in each style. The following corps competed, and prizes were awarded as indicated:

Father Matthew Drum, Springfield, twenty-one men, (modern) $50.00.

Lancraft Drum, New Haven, eighteen men (ancient), $50.00.

Father Matthew Drum, Hartford, seventeen men, (modern), $25.00.

Deep River Drum, thirteen men (ancient), $25.00.

Plimpton Drum, of Hartford, ten men, (ancient), $15.00.

McLean Drum, (colored), Hartford, ten men (ancient), $10.00.

Mansfield Fife and Drum, eighteen men, expenses.

Buckland Drum, thirteen men, expenses.

Glastonbury Drum, ten men, expenses.

Meriden Fife and Drum, fifteen men, expenses.

Several individual prizes were awarded for snare and bass drumming, fifing, (both old and new style) best drum-major, smartest appearing corps, corps coming longest distance (Deep River) and oldest man in corps. This was John Bolles of Mansfield, aged 73 years, prize $5.00.

Undoubtedly the real magnet, which brought out the enormous evening crowd, estimated at twenty thousand, was the fireworks display from Fox Hill and Central Park. Although scheduled to start at 9 o'clock, it was 9:30 before the twenty-four extra-large bombshells were heard echoing and reverberating for miles around furnishing a worthy and fitting salute to the visitors. Fifty pounds of red fire fired from three separate points then cast a luminous light over the entire city. The effect was indeed striking. Coupled with the gorgeous decorations and the magnificent electrical display, the scene about the center of the city as this red fire was set off, beggared description. The same amount of green fire was also fired from three separate points.

Fox Hill was reflected as a mountain of emerald fires, a truly wonderful sight. There were many aerial pieces, a fine rocket display, numerous serenaders and a couple of set pieces in Central Park. The set piece, entitled "Vernon, 1808-1908," surmounted by the national colors and displaying the red, white and blue, suspended from one of the lofty elms in the park, was a striking one. The girondolas, the marvelous in fireworks, attracted much attention. These consisted of three pieces, placed on ten-foot posts. They rapidly revolved horizontally, displaying a cascade of gold and silver spangles. Then rising from the post, they flew to a great height. Descending nearly to the ground, they made a second flight into the sky and finally disappeared with a burst of brilliant stars. An exhibition piece, "Good Night," produced in two-foot letters of gold fire, embellished with silver gerbs, brought the display to a fitting close.

CIVIC, INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY PARADE; FIREMEN'S DAY.

What would undoubtedly have been the grand outdoor event, and crowning triumph of the celebration, could it have been carried out as planned, was the parade organized by Chief Marshal Moritz Kemnitzer, and his corps of hard-working aides. But alas! for human glory. To vary the proverb, we may say that "the marshal proposes, the weather disposes." As will be well

remembered, the parade had hardly gotten under way when torrents of rain descended, and put it out of the question for the program to be carried out.

The order of the parade was so arranged as to have all in readiness at two o'clock in the afternoon, and the march was to have lasted about one hour and a half. Included in the procession would have been a review, by town and city officials, of the following: First Regiment, C. N. C., Sons of Veterans, Catholic Societies of the town of Vernon, Knights of Maccabees, Odd Fellows, Free Masons, Foresters, German and Polish Societies, with several bands of music.

Florally decorated floats, automobiles and business wagons were also in line, and a contingent of private and unattached vehicles were scheduled to bring up the rear. All in all, there would have been presented to the citizens of Rockville and the thousands of visitors making up the largest crowd of the week, a moving picture of the civic, industrial, social and military life of the community, such as had not been seen in the town's history.

Co-operating with Chief Marshal Kemnitzer and rendering valuable assistance was a special committee, consisting of Major T. F. Rockwell, Captain James H. Lutton, Ex-Captain Martin Laubscher and Captain Earl D. Church.

The marshals of the various divisions were: First, Dr. Thomas F. Rockwell and Arthur T. Bissell; second, George B. Hammond and A. Leroy Martin; third, Charles Backofen, A. Gunderman, Ignaz Kohn, Charles F. Ludke, Conrad Sachse; fourth, Frank Goscenski; fifth, Fred J. Cooley; sixth, George E. Sykes.

Firemen's Day, July 4th, was another outdoor event of imposing proportions; and being favored with ideal weather, the various companies participating made a fine showing, and afforded the crowds a Fourth of July celebration such as we seldom get. Companies from other towns and cities swelled the ranks; conspicuous among these being the Veteran Firemen's Association of Hartford, with the veteran Hartford fire chief, Henry J. Eaton in line, accompanied by Colt's Band. Special interest was shown in the Norwalk Fire Police, and this was

increased by the fact of their having at the head John D. Milne, a former Rockville boy.

Another company receiving special notice was the delegation from Pawtuxet, R. I., which brought back to its home town for this celebration, the old fire-fighter, "Fire King." Associated with the early days of fire protection in Rockville, this piece of inanimate mechanism seemed to possess a soul to those old veterans who marched in company with it, and remembered the runs they had had together in days gone by.

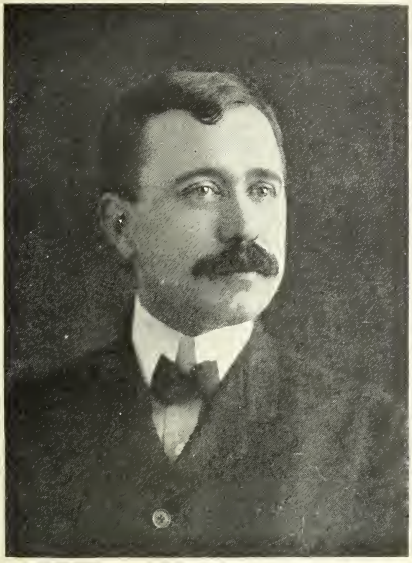
In striking contrast with the veterans a juvenile company styled "Our Boys," organized by Chief Hefferon and drilled by Charles B. Milne, gave a pleasing variety to the parade, and a promise to the citizens of younger men taking up the work which the old fellows must soon pass down to them.

The success of the whole parade, in its inception and carrying out, resulted largely from the personal influence of Chief Hefferon, whose wide acquaintance with outside organizations brought about the large attendance, and secured hearty co-operation from all.

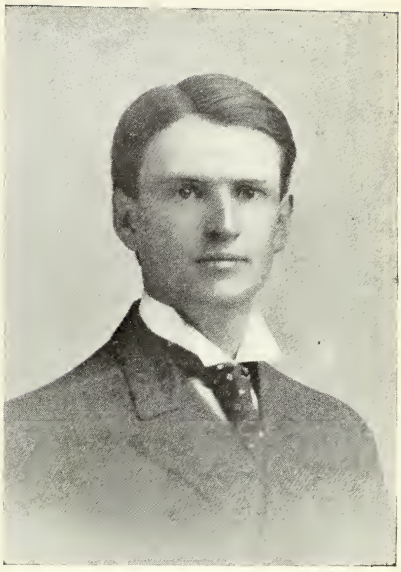
THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT.

One of the most interesting features of Vernon's centennial celebration was the industrial exhibit in the Maxwell Memorial Library Building. The exhibit was open daily from ten to twelve o'clock in the morning, from one to six o'clock in the afternoon and from seven to nine o'clock in the evening, with the exception of Saturday. It was visited by thousands of people during the week. In great profusion were shown the goods that have made Rockville what it is today, the "Loom City," the place where the finest cloths, the best fish-lines, the daintiest silks in the world are made.

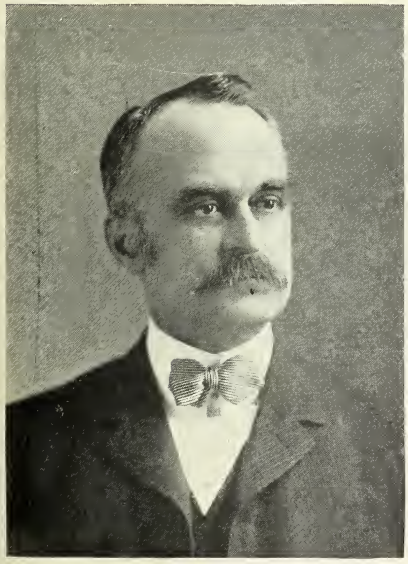
In this age of specialization, no longer, as in bygone days, are nearly all of the industries carried on in the farmhouse. No longer does each community manufacture practically all the things it needs. No longer are the flock and the loom, the silkworm and the spindle within sight of each other. The raw materials are now gathered by railroads and steamships from



HARRY C. SMITH,
Secretary Committee on Advertising, Publicity and Printing.



C. DENISON TALCOTT,
Treasurer Finance Committee of Vernon Centennial Celebration.



H. H. WILLES,
Member of Transportation and Public Safety Committees.

MORITZ KEMNITZER,
Member of Committee on Public Exercises and Chief Marshal of Military and Civic Parade.

the corners of the earth, and railroads and steamships distribute the finished product.

Generally speaking, the people who see the place where the things they use are prepared, are few. Rockville's centennial industrial exhibit was, therefore, a real object lesson that brought enlightenment and education, affording an excellent opportunity to see, not only the finished products, but in many instances the goods in various stages of manufacture. Profit and pleasure came to those who inspected the products of Rockville's plants. A general summing up of the various exhibits is herewith given:

MINTERBURN EXHIBIT.

This exhibit consisted of a beautiful array of rich, soft effects, produced in a mixture, and double and twist wool cloth that showed the highest type of excellence in design and fabrication. Many novel and delightful effects were produced by the frequent and generous use of white silk, combined with the delicate grays, tans and olives of the wool mixtures. All cloths shown were of a woolen type of construction, and to the eye the effect was most attractive showing excellent taste and skill in the manufacture.

AMERICAN MILLS COMPANY.

This exhibit occupied all of the space to the right of the entrance of the library, and the tasteful arrangement occasioned much favorable comment. It was the most varied and largest display of fabrics shown by any one concern, including as it did a large and attractive display of carriage cloths, in addition to the regular line of fancy worsteds for men's wear, which the company manufactures. In the exhibit of carriage cloths there were the most novel effects in fancy weaves, and beautiful colorings in whipcords, Bedford cords, wide and narrow wales and diagonals. In their regular line of fancy worsteds for men's wear, both heavy and light weights of high quality were shown, and the colorings were the new delicate tones of gray, stone and tan, as well as the most complete lines of blues, olives and

browns, the mixture effects, as well as the skein-dyed fabrics producing a pleasing impression and giving the visitor a clear idea of the scope and great variety of the manufactures of the American Mills Company.

HOCKANUM, SPRINGVILLE AND NEW ENGLAND MILLS.

The Hockanum, Springville and New England Mills showed a most complete line of fancy worsteds occupying all the space to the left of the entrance on the south side of the room. They maintained their reputation for the production of these fine and high-grade worsted cloths. In their large and tastefully arranged display were represented the high-textured fabrics of the Hockanum and New England Mills and the beautiful soft undressed worsted effects of the Springville Mill. The whole was a bewildering display of modish, up-to-date, stylish fabrics and color combinations, all indicating the highest degree of skill in both structure and design.

E. J. MARTIN'S SONS' EXHIBIT.

The northwest corner of the reading room in the Library Building, where E. J. Martin's Sons, manufacturers of the celebrated "Kingfisher" all-silk braided fish-lines, had their exhibit, appealed to the sportsman. The exhibit bore out the concern's reputation for excellence, reliability and perfection. All the lines manufactured were shown, in the various sizes, colors and finishes, both on spools and in hanks.

Cards, with the various lines drawn through them, were handed to visitors, while description leaflets were given away. The silk of which the lines are made, was also shown, as well as the machine with which the lines are braided.

The walls were decorated with brook trout, mounted on panels of oak or birch bark, surrounded by skeins of lines. The trout were caught by local men in nearby brooks with Kingfisher lines.

BELDING BROS. & CO.'S EXHIBIT.

This firm had a most artistic exhibit of all its products. Not only those manufactured in this city, where spool silk of the various varieties is the specialty, but also embroidery silks and many kinds of all-silk fabrics from the Northampton, Mass., mills, besides piece-dyed satins and taffetas from Belding, Mich., were shown in a tasteful manner. The display, arranged in the form of a dainty booth, the pillars of the booth being made of hundreds of spools of green sewing silk, beginning with dark at the base and gradually growing lighter in shade toward the top. The front was draped in pearl gray satin with festoons of green spool silk, while the background was of Copenhagen blue, sage green and pink. The side walls were made of countless shades of embroidery floss. Within the booth there were about a score of hand embroidered pillows and pictures, some of the latter rare works of art, requiring years of work and being valued at thousands of dollars. Practically the same line of goods was exhibited by this firm at Rockville's centennial industrial exhibit, as was shown at the Jamestown exposition in 1907.

In addition to the finished goods there was also shown raw silk, "thrown" silk and silk, gummed preparatory to dyeing. A very interesting feature were the silk worms in all stages of growth, beginning with the eggs, about one sixteenth of an inch long, and ending with the complete cocoon. These were in glass phials. A limited number were given away free.

WORSTED YARNS.

The Arlington Mills Company of Lawrence, Mass., exhibited a fine and comprehensive assortment of worsted yarns.

The committee, who had the arrangements in charge for the industrial exhibit, consisted of E. F. Badmington, William Maxwell, F. J. Regan, M. C. Mason, M. H. White, A. N. Belding, A. L. Martin and Frank Keeney.

INDOOR EVENTS, RECEPTIONS, BANQUETS, CONCERTS.

Never before was the social significance of the many fraternal orders of the town of Vernon and city of Rockville, so brought into prominence as during the centennial week. Lodges vied with each other in keeping open house and making welcome friend and stranger alike.

The limited space at our disposal does not permit of detailed accounts of these functions, but perhaps some further mention should be made of the reception and banquet given in honor of Most Worshipful Brother, Edward E. Fuller, Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut. This notable event in the history of local Masonry marked also a half-century of existence of Fayette lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., and the anniversary was fitly celebrated on the afternoon and evening of June 30, 1908, at Masonic Hall. Chief among the incidents of the celebration was the presentation of a watch to Grand Master Fuller, from the lodge; the speech of presentation being made by Lyman T. Tingier. The responsive remarks of Grand Master Fuller, and the series of reminiscences given by Brother E. Stevens Henry, made memorable contributions to the events of the day.

Amongst all the reunions of the week, both private and public, that of the High School Alumni Association, on Tuesday evening, June 30th, holds a big place in the memory of those who were present. The guest of honor was Prof. Randall Spaulding, first principal of the school, from 1870-1873. Graduates of 1873 and 1875 revived bygone history, and welded the chain of association with the events of 1908. A specially interesting feature of the occasion was the opening of the "old building," for refreshments and a social chat among the old classmates. The intermingling of the old order and the new gave pleasing evidence of loyalty to school spirit, and of pride in the history of R. H. S.

"Auld Lang Syne" and "Home, Sweet Home," had never a more heartfelt response to their heart-stirring strains than was evoked at the service in Union Church, Sunday morning of June 28th. Here gathered about sixty past and present members of the choir and led the good old hymns, in which the large

congregation joined heartily. Added interest was given the service by old musicians, who played instruments of reed, string and brass, as in the days when church organs were unknown in the town.

Another of the chief musical events was the organ recital given in Union Church on the afternoon of July 2, by Prof. William Churchill Hammond of Holyoke, Mass., assisted by Miss Ida E. Martin, violinist, Rockville, and Mrs. Marion Murlless Chapin, soprano, of Boston. All three being claimed as Rockville artists, it was a fitting combination of home talent which gave pleasure to the large audience assembled.

The exhibit of curios and historical relics, while not so large as had been planned, proved of great attractiveness to many people, and was open daily throughout the week.

One of the most useful institutions brought into being for the occasion, was the general information bureau promoted by Manager William M. Lewis of the Rockville Gas and Electric Company. The bureau furnished much valuable assistance to visitors, and helped in every way to make their stay in the city agreeable and free from care.

Rest houses were also established at convenient points; and these afforded rest and comfort to many tired ones during the course of a celebration where so great a demand was made upon the staying power of sight-seers.

Turn Hall was headquarters for the special events planned by our German citizens; concerts, balls, and other entertainments making up a season of gaiety and rejoicing wherein a great many people took part.

At Town Hall, many similar scenes were presented. Receptions and balls were given there by the Rockville Baseball Association; D. A. R.; military and firemen; all of which were freely patronized and made the occasion of social display.

OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS OF CENTENNIAL WEEK.

The histories of all people witness to the love of man for show, for diversion, and for spectacular entertainment. And this present history of our town would be incomplete, without some preservation of a record of those lighter features which made "Old Home Week" pleasurable to young and old alike.

The committee on public exercises spared no effort to assure a season of good humor, and of delight to eye and ear; and the engagement of the Victor Amusement Company hit the popular taste. In this aggregation of talent were animal trainers, acrobats, dancers, conjurers, and other skilled entertainers, all doing something in their own special line to attract and amuse crowds of holiday makers. A specially interesting artist was Miss Mabel McKinley, then one of the most popular singers on the vaudeville stage.

The White City Band, under the leadership of Charles M. Ulivieri, gave a series of concerts well suited to the audiences of a free, outdoor celebration; the popular and the classic styles of music being judiciously alternated, so as "to please all tastes."

Besides the larger shows, all manner of smaller ones such as have come to be part of every "Midway" catered to the fun or the curiosity of the pleasure seekers. Day and night did these professional amusement makers ply their arts, and it was a person's own fault if she or he had any dull moments. The Connecticut Company rose to the occasion, and produced displays of fireworks.

Ball games afforded sport to the lovers of the diamond; and a series of athletic events, comprising races and other tests of wind and muscle, took place on the Middle Road, drawing a large crowd. The success of the athletic events was due largely to the committee on sports and R. J. Murphy, who combined experience with enthusiasm. The officials were: Starter, R. J. Murphy; referee, W. J. Murphy; timers, Fred J. Cooley and A. M. Burke; judges, Fred Woodhall, George B. Milne, Parley B. Leonard and W. A. Elliott.

The July Fourth parade of Antiques and Horribles was made the occasion for a more elaborate display, in keeping with the spirit of the whole week of carnival.

FINANCING THE CELEBRATION.

To properly finance Vernon's centennial celebration was no easy task. It required an untold amount of hard work, but there was a noble and generous response on the part of residents and former residents of the town. Contributions were received through the local papers, coming from all parts of the country. The first local subscription came from the *Rockville Leader,* the originator of the idea of a one-hundredth birthday party for the town of Vernon. Its contribution was $100. To Howard K. James of Alameda, Cal., belongs the honor of being the first out-of-town contributor. All the local mills gave liberally and there were many popular subscriptions. Nearly $8,000 was raised as the result of careful planning and perfect system. A detailed account of all receipts and expenditures was kept by Treasurer Parley B. Leonard of the general committee. The sum of $1,800 was appropriated from the town treasury to aid the centennial celebration. There remained a substantial balance on hand after all bills were paid. No enterprise of this nature was ever more ably and successfully financed than was the Vernon centennial of 1908.

A synopsis of the treasurer's report follows:

RECEIPTS.

Town of Vernon	$1,800.00
Subscriptions	4,130.75
Advertising	1,751.08
Privileges	290.00
Total	$7,971.83

EXPENDITURES.

Advertising and publicity	$1,476.98
Auto contest	200.00
Invitations and receptions	92.20
Finance	24.00
Public exercises	3,717.22
Lights	1,861.91
Sports	93.15
Cash on hand	506.37
Total	$7,971.83

Official Program, "Old Home Week."

June 28th to July 4th, Inclusive.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28.

MORNING—Special services in all the churches, sermons by former pastors and singing of old-time hymns.

AFTERNOON—Rendition of famous oratorio, "The Creation," in Union Church.

EVENING—Oratorio will be given second rendition, with solo parts by distinguished New York Artists, Orchestra, and Chorus of one hundred and twenty-five voices. Historical address at St. John's Church by Rev. Dr. Samuel Hart, Dean of Berkeley Divinity School and President of Connecticut Historical Society. Solemn High Vespers at St. Bernard's Church, with sermon by Rev. Edward Flannery of Hazardville.

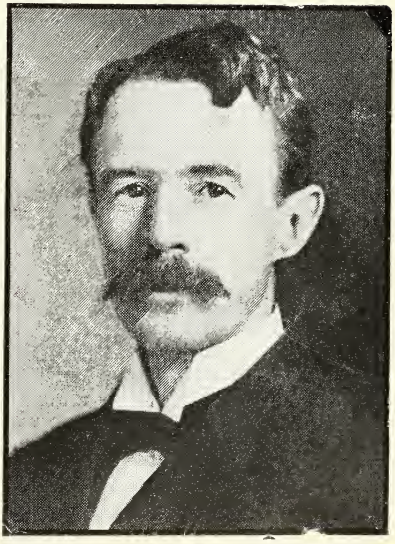
MONDAY, JUNE 29.

AFTERNOON—Opening exercises at Vernon Center (mother settlement of the town), in historic Congregational Church, built in 1826, with following program: 1, Music; 2, Invocation; 3, Address of welcome by Parley B. Leonard, Esq., first selectman of the Town of Vernon; 4, Reading of Act of the General Assembly creating the Town of Vernon, by Francis B. Skinner, Esq., town clerk; 5, Music; 6, Historical Essay by C. Denison Talcott, Esq.; 7, Music; 8, Reminiscences, by Captain Charles W. Burpee of Hartford; 9, Centennial poem, by Prof. Thomas D. Goodell of New Haven; 10, Music; 11, Commemorative address by Hon Charles Phelps, President of Vernon Centennial Committee; 12, Benediction Following the exercises in the church there will be a Band Concert and social gathering on green in front of the church.

EVENING—Grand Colonial Ball in Town Hall, under auspices of Sabra Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R. Grand Ball at Turn Hall. Opening of Electrical Display and Illuminations;

CHARLES BACKOFEN,
Treasurer of Committee on Advertising, Publicity and Printing.

PROFESSOR THOMAS D. GOODELL.
Member of first graduating class of Rockville High School. Wrote commemorative poem for Vernon's centennial celebration.



CAPTAIN CHARLES W. BURPEE,
Of Hartford. Former Rockville boy who took part in literary exercises during centennial week.

Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway, on East Main Street.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30.

AFTERNOON—Automobile Hill-Climb Contest, Vernon avenue, at two o'clock. Athletic sports, including foot races, sack races, climbing greased pole, etc. Ball game on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Middletown, champions of Middlesex County League. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

EVENING—Meeting of Alumni of Rockville High School, with grand reunion. Reception and banquet tendered by Fayette Lodge, No. 69, A. F. & A. M., to M. W., Edward Fuller, M. W., Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. Ball in Town Hall. Electrical display and Illuminations; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1.

AFTERNOON—Fifers' and Drummers' convention and contest. Ball game on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Bristol Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

EVENING—Grand pyrotechnical display, furnished by Clarence D. Holt, former Rockville resident. Band Concert; Midway, and Vaudeville; Electrical display and Illuminations.

THURSDAY, JULY 2.

MORNING—Baseball game on Union Street grounds between Rockville and Springfield State League team, (game will be preceded by parade of the players of the two teams in autos, headed by band).

AFTERNOON—Baseball on Union Street grounds, Rockville vs. Springfield State League team. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

EVENING—Rockville Baseball Association's reception to players, entertainment, and ball, in Town Hall. Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway; Electrical Display and Illuminations.

FRIDAY, JULY 3.

Afternoon—Grand military, civic and industrial parade, ending with Centennial Drill under the direction of Moritz Kemnitzer. Band Concert; Balloon Ascension; Vaudeville, and Midway. German Entertainment at Turn Hall.

Evening—Grand military ball at Town Hall. German entertainment at Turn Hall. Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway; Electrical Display and Illuminations.

SATURDAY, JULY 4.

Morning—Parade of Antiques and Horribles. Band Concert.

Afternoon—Firemen's muster. Baseball, Rockville vs. Stafford. Balloon Ascension; Band Concert; Vaudeville, and Midway.

Evening—Firemen's ball in Town hall. Band Concert; Electrical Display and Illuminations; Private Display of Fireworks; Vaudeville, and Midway. Exhibit of historical relics and curios each day. Industrial exhibit each day.

Some Press Comments

TOWN AND CITY CREDIT TO OLD CONNECTICUT.

Bristol celebrated her centennial in 1883. Now it's Vernon's turn. That is really the ancient and official town name, but Rockville is the modern expression. "Old Home Week" has meant something there this week, and its observance has been carried out in a spirit of genuine hospitality and hearty welcome. We extend our congratulations to Vernon-Rockville. Both town and city are a credit to old Connecticut. Progress and enterprise and many other good things dwell there.—*Bristol Press.*

IT IS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN

There is no overestimating the value and importance of these centennial and bi-centennial celebrations through the state. They revive patriotism, encourage public spirit, and make in many ways for good citizenship and human progress. The town of Vernon is now engaged in this stimulating sort of entertainment. Elsewhere this morning we publish the addresses of yesterday, each of them worthy of a wide reading. The historical sketch by Mr. Talcott covers most interestingly the development of the place and its progress into a most important manufacturing center. Captain Burpee tells entertainingly of various occurrences in the life of the town. And State Attorney Phelps, with his commemorative address, sounds the call to duty in an impressive and noteworthy oration. All the literary exercises are evidently on a high plane, and the occasion is a memorable one. Rockville, the industrial center of the town of Vernon, is one of the greatest woolen producers in the world and the quality of its goods is proverbially fine. The citizens who have grown rich with its development are constantly doing in one way and another for the town, steadily making it a better place to live in and sharing their success with their fellow-townsmen.—*Hartford Courant.*

OUGHT TO BE PROUD OF MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS.

Vernon's big centennial celebration came to a close Saturday night, and it is now a matter of history. It will be remembered as the greatest and most successful event ever taking place in the town. Hereafter when occasion arises to fix the time of any particular event reference will be had to its having been before or since the Vernon centennial. The attention of the entire state was centered on Vernon and Rockville last week. The magnificent scale upon which the town observed its 100th birthday will be the talk of everyone within a radius of many miles for a long time to come. Visitors were amazed at the elaborateness of everything; things were conducted on a scale that would have done credit to a place four times our size. The decorations and attractions were far beyond the expectations of the hosts of people who came to attend the festivities. Former residents who had not been in this city for years, came back for "Old Home Week," meeting old acquaintances and reviving old times and incidents. It was a great time for Rockville and everybody who had anything to do with planning and carrying out Vernon's centennial ought to feel proud of the magnificent success achieved.—*Rockville Journal.*

EXCELLED ALL RECORDS AND EXCEEDED ALL ANTICIPATIONS.

The big centennial celebration is now a matter of history, and Vernon (Rockville) has excelled all records and exceeded all anticipations. This might sound egotistical were it not a fact that it is the plain truth, corroborated by every one who witnessed the celebration. Today the town of Vernon stands higher in the estimation of the public than it ever stood before. As we look back it is difficult to name an event which should have been omitted or a feature which should have been added. A week's celebration has been held, covering every point which such a celebration should cover, dignified and formal, where dignity and formality were appropriate, informal, happy and homelike at all other times. From the outset doubt had been expressed whether a town the size of Vernon could keep up the

pace for an entire week of carnival. There is no longer any doubt. From the very first day of the celebration until the last day the pace was maintained. The populace and outsiders crowded the streets day and night throughout the entire week and joined in the rejoicings with the abandon of New Orleans at the Mardi Gras. There was something doing every minute. It was indeed a strenuous week, and when the windup came late on Saturday night there were undoubtedly a whole lot of tired people in Rockville, but not one of these regretted that the celebration had taken place, although possibly some of the number, if they were going to do it all over again, would bring it to an end in three or four days, instead of continuing it for a week.

Aside from the entertainment and enjoyment features of Vernon's centennial celebration, there have been other features which cannot fail to benefit the town. Rockville is known today from one end of the state to the other. Indeed, her name is being mentioned and her praises sounded throughout New England. Every person who has visited the city from near and far, (and there have been people from every part of the country here during that week) has advertised Rockville, has had a good word to say of the civic pride and public spirit of her citizens. Although small in size, everyone today is satisfied that Rockville can do big things—things that cities much larger could not do one whit better. Without desiring to boast, it can truthfully be said that Rockville's centennial celebration will compare favorably, yes hold its end up, with any of the big celebrations that have been held hereabouts in the last twenty-five years.

Nature has done much for Rockville. Conditions here are ideal for such a celebration as was planned for the centennial of the town of Vernon. There isn't another city in Connecticut better adapted from a show standpoint for a centennial celebration than Rockville. With its beautiful greensward in the center, its triple-terraced streets, and its ideal spot for a midway, (East Main street), everything can be seen to advantage. It wasn't necessary to turn Rockville upside down to convert it into a show place. The spectacular and show features were kept within a very limited area. The center of Rockville certainly looked grand. It

was a delight for visitors to walk up and down the main street and pass along the midway by night, and thousands and thousands who did it night after night were carried away with the effect produced by the decorations and illuminations. They did not tire of them, and kept coming night after night. Ask any "Old Home Week" visitor what he thinks of Rockville and you'll get an answer that will make you feel proud. It's the unanimous opinion of all who spent any time in the city during "Old Home Week" that Rockville's welcome and hospitality were of the 18 karat kind and all wool and a yard wide. There was nothing lacking in welcome and hospitality and the city never looked prettier.

By way of review, it should be said that Vernon's centennial celebration was not only carefully planned and well financed, but splendidly conducted, with every contingency provided for and no detail, however minute, escaping attention. Of course it isn't likely that everyone was satisfied with everything that took place or some things that didn't take place, but generally speaking there was little criticism and practically no fault-finding. The townspeople marveled at the magnitude of the celebration once it was under headway. To the men who labored so hard and faithfully, not only during that week, but during the eight months of preparation, they did not hesitate to award a full measure of credit, realizing that it was a big undertaking that demanded self-sacrifice and called for ceaseless toil. It's a good thing for the town that Vernon had the men capable of carrying out the undertaking and willing to do the work necessary to make it a success. It was new work to most of them, but they never faltered, and from the outset displayed a spirit of enthusiasm and resistless energy that spelled success. Judging by the verdict of those of the city's guests during the week, who have travelled much and participated in such events, the great enterprise was a success.

Some special points should be noted regarding the celebration. Perfect order was maintained during the entire week. Over 100,000 people occupied our streets, and there was no disturbance, no violence or theft, no accident of any kind, and a notice-

ableable absence of drunkenness. That such admirable order prevailed is a credit to our town and its visitors, and this community owes a debt of gratitude to the committee on public safety, of which Mayor Forster, as chief of police, was an active member, and to the police department. Too much praise cannot be given to Captain Edward J. Kane and his men for the discipline and order they maintained during the week of immense crowds. Taking everything into consideration, it is certainly marvelous that there wasn't trouble during the week. Captain Kane and the men under him were onto their jobs, so to speak, every minute, day and night. Both the active head of the police department and the officers seemed to take pride in their work. They did really more than they were called upon to do, realizing that it was an unusual time—a time when too much care could not be exercised. The good nature of the thousands of centennial celebrants materially aided the police in their work, but they controlled the situation from start to finish in great style.—*Rockville Leader.*

LONG LIVE ROCKVILLE AND VERNON.

The Vernon centenary and "Old Home Week" festivities at Rockville are bringing great throngs of people there. The weather has favored Vernon and Rockville splendidly in this celebration. Manchester has contributed a generous quota of visitors to all the attractions at Rockville this week. Wednesday night the fireworks display brought record crowds to Rockville. The display was a credit to Rockville. We certainly take off our hats to our enterprising neighbors in Rockville. Their celebration is a grand success and they are covering themselves all over with glory. Long live Rockville and Vernon.—*South Manchester News.*

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